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Maryam Alamor and her husband display the NIS 1 million their newborn daughter Bilal won in last week's Payis Hazak drawing. In a special "Born Under a Lucky Star" promotion, Maryam, a Beduin from the Negev town of Kasiya, was one of the women giving birth in certain hospitals whose babies were given four time-limited free subscriptions to the lottery.

## Palestinian policeman shoots out tires of Israeli contractor's car

JON IMMANUEL and HERB KEINON

A GAZA policeman shot out the tires of an Israeli contractor's car near the Erez checkpoint yesterday, the first time an Israeli has come under fire from the Palestinian Police.

Military sources said initial investigation indicated the Israeli, Shmuel Cohen, drove past a Palestinian checkpoint without stopping. When Israeli soldiers came after him in a jeep and told him to return, he drove back but again failed to stop before doubling back in the direction of the Israeli roadblock.

Cohen, who had collected workers from the industrial area near Nissanit, said he had not understood the new regulations. He said he did what the IDF soldiers told him and only swung his vehicle around to face the Israeli checkpoint when he was fired on.

"I arrived at the Palestinian roadblock, which was just one vehicle," Cohen told Army Radio after the incident. "I stopped at the side of the road, one of the policemen came over at a run and opened fire at my car and hit it, from less than a meter. He first aimed the weapon at

the upper part of my body, then aimed it downwards, fired a burst and hit two tires."

Military sources said the policeman is under investigation by the Palestinian Police, while Cohen has been questioned by Israeli police. If necessary, a joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee will meet to examine the case and draw up guidelines to avoid a recurrence.

The Palestinian Police would not comment on the matter.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported the Cairo agreement is to be translated into Arabic to avoid misinterpretations by junior Palestinian personnel.

Danya Herskovitz, spokeswoman for the Gaza Coast Regional Council, said yesterday's incident, coupled with the car theft from Eilat Sinai that allegedly involved a Palestinian po-

liceman last week, is revealing the true face of the Palestinian police.

"Last week they stole a car, this week they shot at a car. The next step is for them to order an Israeli out of his car and shoot him in the legs," Herskovitz said. "People don't realize who our partners are, and that their methods of operation are completely different from ours. The question is what price we will have to pay before people finally wake up. We have given the Palestinians weapons, and now have no control over their use."

Herskovitz said the incident also illustrates the total confusion on the roads in Gaza. "Nobody knows what they are supposed to do, whom they need to listen to, who has authority. There are no clear guidelines."

Cohen was transporting Palestinian workers to the industrial zone near the Erez checkpoint. Herskovitz said that under the accord, vehicles transporting Palestinian workers are to be checked at Palestinian roadblocks.

Gum registration drive, Page 2

## Palestinians: No need for Arafat to recommit himself to peace

Rabin, Peres and Sarid demand clarification of Johannesburg remarks

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is insisting that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat reiterate his commitment to peace in light of his May 10 remarks at a Johannesburg mosque.

Arafat has yet to respond to Rabin's demand, but Palestinian aides say such a clarification is unwarranted.

"The prime minister demands that Arafat reconfirm his commitment to his agreement with us" in the aftermath of his remarks at the mosque, Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said yesterday.

Rabin's demand clearly indicates that Arafat's public statements in Oslo last week, while meeting Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, were insufficient.

It is believed that Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, head of negotiations with the PLO, conveyed Rabin's request during a meeting over the weekend in Gaza with senior PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'ath. Shahak and Sha'ath also spoke on the phone yesterday.

Rabin is also reportedly waiting to see how the Palestinians organize themselves in Gaza and Jericho before going forward to the next phase - the transfer of some forms of civilian authority - also known as "early empowerment" - throughout the territories. This decision was apparently made by the prime minister after the signing ceremony in Cairo earlier this month, and was not a result of Arafat's recent comments.

In his speech to Moslems in Johannesburg, Arafat called on his coreligionists to fight a jihad for Jerusalem. Amid a fury in Israel, Arafat later said he did not mean the waging of a holy war, but rather

er the launching of peaceful crusade.

In the same Johannesburg speech, he said the Israel-PLO agreement was no different than the one the Prophet Mohammed signed with Kuraish tribe in Mecca in 627 CE, which was subsequently violated two years later.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that he had raised the Kuraish issue with Arafat during their talks in Oslo. "His [Arafat's] claim is that the Kuraish tribe violated the agreement first. This is his [Arafat's] explanation. It is clear that his speech [in Johannesburg] caused damage."

Peres told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York.

"We would like, first of all, to clarify exactly what happened in the mosque of Johannesburg. And once the situation will become clear, then we shall see if and what sort of steps are necessary to take in the future," said Peres.

"I think that Chairman Arafat must state clearly his commitment to the DOP [Declaration of Principles] on all its forms and appendices. Secondly, that he must repeat time and again his objection to the use of force and violence in the relations between the Palestinians and ourselves. And thirdly, to repeat his commitment that all the future disputes will be solved peacefully and diplomatically," said Peres.

Also yesterday, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel might hold up the implementation of the accord. "If terrorist attacks continue and Arafat continues making unfortunate statements that contradict the peace accord,"

However, Palestinian negotiator Jamil Tarifi said a delay would violate the peace agreement, which stipulates that talks are to begin on the next "early empowerment" phase of self-rule immediately.

In other criticism of the PLO leader, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said Arafat had created a "crisis of confidence" that could derail the peace process.

"[Arafat] has to declare that his grave and regrettable words in the mosque in Johannesburg are null and void. He must again declare his complete commitment to the accord with Israel."

"Now he will have to prove his commitment in deeds, on the ground, in reality, first of all by an open struggle against terrorism," he told Israel Radio.

However, Palestinians in the territories said there is no need to apologize for remarks about the Kuraish, because they were distorted.

"I do not see any need for the statements made by some ministers demanding a written clarification from President Arafat," Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab adviser to Arafat, told reporters yesterday. "The clarification is already there - in the Gaza/Jericho agreement which President Arafat signed."

Tibi said it was the Kuraish and not Moslems who violated commitments. "This time, all this storm stems from distortion of the Islamic religion and the Islamic faith and it is the responsibility of the Israeli side to go back and study history once again," he said.

Emily Torgan contributed to this report.

## A-G asked to consider probe of Ben-Eliezer

EVELYN GORDON

STATE Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has asked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to consider opening a criminal investigation into some of Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's activities, the comptroller told the Knesset state control committee yesterday.

An assistant to Ben-Yair said the comptroller's request related to Housing Ministry support for certain neighborhoods and public institutions. Ben-Porat accused Ben-Eliezer and Director-General Arye Mizrahi of distributing funds to local authorities on the basis of political considerations, with Li-Ben-Yair had accused Ben-

Porat of fostering a mistaken impression that she had uncovered widespread wrongdoing in her recent report, by saying that she

Rabin slams Ben-Porat  
 Page 12

kud-run towns getting much less than they needed and Labor-run cities getting more than they asked for. The ministry also violated the budget law by committing itself to spending NIS 60 million more than it was allowed to, Ben-Porat noted.

Ben-Eliezer is also accused of giving NIS 11m. to non-profit associations headed by former Labor MKs, in violation of standard ministry procedure, as well as of giving money to three ineligible institutions. In one of these cases, Ben-Eliezer and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat approved a NIS 1.4m. grant to Beit Palmach, which is not a public institution, the comptroller noted, and both Ben-Eliezer and Shohat serve on its board.

According to Ben-Yair's office,

the comptroller also asked him to look into the activities of an assistant to the director-general of the Government Employment Service, who was holding two other jobs in addition to this post.

After Ben-Yair has reviewed the comptroller's findings on both matters, he will decide whether to order the police to open a criminal investigation.

Ben-Porat also reacted angrily to Ben-Yair's criticism of her at Sunday's cabinet meeting, telling the committee that his statements had been thoroughly out of line.

(Continued on Page 12)

## Electricity to cost home users 8.7% more

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE price of electricity goes up an average of 4.1 percent today. Home usage rates are up 8.7%, and rates for industry 1.1%.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday signed a regulation giving the Electric Corporation the right to raise the price to the consumer.

Electricity prices are adjusted every six months, according to the recommendations of the 1992 Fogel Commission, reflecting the real cost and eliminating government subsidies, Energy Ministry spokeswoman Yael Ne'eman said. In effect, she said, the price of electricity to the consumer has dropped in real terms since the last hike in May 1993, because the consumer price index had gone up even more than electricity prices.

The price of electricity has really dropped 5.5% over the past year, she said. According to the Electric Corp., the consumer price index has risen 10%, while the average price of electricity rose by an average of 4.1%, indicating a real decrease of 5.5%.

Following the update, the kilowatt hour price will be some NIS 0.208.

The price hike was explained as being caused by the high rise in the April index and the increased cost of fuel. Electricity rates are calculated by linking one-third of the price to the cost of other fuels, and two-thirds to the index, Ne'eman said. The formula includes a 2% deduction contributed by the Electric Corp. through efficiency measures, she said.

Newsline, Page 2

## Kupat Holim Clalit head resigns post

JUDY SIEGEL

KUPAT Holim Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan resigned from his post yesterday after only 18 months, saying he could "no longer bear the responsibility" of coping with Kupat Holim's heavy debts.

Kaplan, a former Israel Aircraft Industries administrator, said in his resignation letter that "an upheaval in the relations between the health fund and the Histadrut and with the government, as well as generous wage increases in the health sector," had made it impossible for him to function.

In the letter to outgoing Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, with copies to Acting Health Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Kupat Holim chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli, Kaplan said he was left with little room for maneuvering, as the Histadrut was offering less money, while the hike in per diem hospitalization rates and the swollen wage bill put the health fund even deeper in debt.

Kaplan said he would stay in his post until a replacement was named by the Histadrut and the government.

No comment was available from either the Health or Finance ministries last night, Kupat Holim spokesman David Tagar, who was "completely surprised" by the announcement, said Michaeli had "no plans to step down at this time."

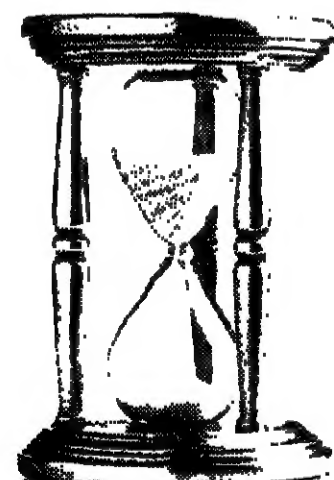
Tagar explained that the health

fund, which insures over 80 percent of the population, has a new deficit of NIS 1.5 billion: NIS 300 million is due to reduced funding by the Histadrut, NIS 500 million from the hike in hospitalization costs and NIS 700 million from increased wage costs approved by the Treasury.

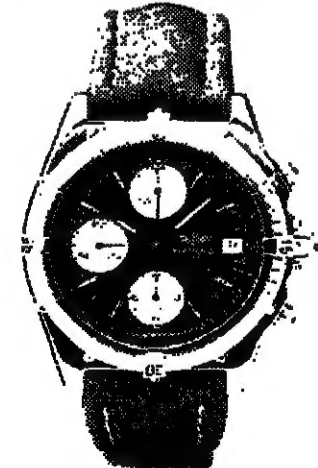
"Even if the national insurance bill is passed and implemented, we will have a NIS 700 million shortfall," Tagar said. "We will need government allocations to make up the difference."

He said the threatened dismissals of Histadrut employees by secretary-general-designate Haim Ramon and the sale of Histadrut properties would be only a drop in the bucket. "Property sales go extremely slowly; one must find buyers and get planning code changes first so the land can be used for commercial rather than public purposes."

"Over a third of the year is over and we still have not been able to formulate a budget for 1994," Kaplan said in his resignation letter. "We have done our best to rehabilitate the health fund financially and in the supply of services to members." Kaplan added that Clalit's 30,000 workers are "excellent but do not enjoy the appreciation they deserve from those factors who influence the health fund's situation." He added that his hoped his replacement would "get more help from the government and Histadrut than I have."



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## Market falls as interest rates rise

SHARES on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange fell sharply yesterday, continuing their recent downward trend, after the Bank of Israel announced a half-point rate increase on daily loans to commercial banks earlier in the day.

The Two-Sided Index declined by 2.6%, the Maof by 2.4%, and

the Karam plummeted by 4.5%. The central bank's move, to take effect on Thursday, brings the rate up to 11.5%, its highest level since October 1993.

All major commercial banks in turn will raise their prime rates on Friday.

Bank Leumi's prime rate will rise to 13%, from 12.5%. Israel Discount Bank, First International Bank, United Mizrahi Bank and Bank Hapoalim's prime rates will rise to 12.8%, from 12.3%.

Full reports, Pages 8 and 9





# Government defeats no-confidence bids

THE government warned yesterday it would not implement the next stages of the Oslo accord if terrorist attacks continue and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat keeps making hostile statements.

The warning was delivered by Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shaleh, the government's liaison with the Knesset, during a reply to no-confidence motions submitted by the Likud, Tsomet, the National Religious Party, and United Tora Judaism.

The government defeated the Likud and Tsomet-NRP motions, which criticized the peace process, by a vote of 50-44, with one abstention. The vote on the UTJ motion, criticizing the government for allowing troops to move out of Gaza Strip outposts on Shabbat and Shavuot, was 50-

42, with one abstention. In both votes, seven Likud MKs kept their promise to pair off with Druse and Moslem MKs who had stayed home to observe Id al-Adha.

Five Shas MKs also stayed away from the plenum chamber. But Yosef Azran, who has already declared that he will not rejoin the coalition with his Shas colleagues, voted for the UTJ resolution and abstained on the Likud and Tsomet-NRP resolutions.

Yi'ud's Alex Goldfarb abstained in the vote on the UTJ motion, while Esther Salmovitz (Yi'ud) and Ariel Weinstein (Likud) stayed out of the chamber.

Shaleh spoke out strongly against Arafat's speech in Johannesburg last week, but did not

DAN IZENBERG

call for any immediate action against the PLO. Towards the end of his speech, he departed from his prepared text to deliver a mild statement on the more recent controversy involving Arafat's comparison of the autonomy agreement with the broken treaty between Mohammed and the Kuraish tribe.

"[Egyptian] President [Anwar] Sadat spoke in similar terms after he was bitterly criticized by Arab leaders," said Shaleh. "On his visit to Beersheba, Sadat used an example from Islamic history - how Mohammed negotiated with the Jews and they betrayed him."

Shaleh said Sadat also referred to the agreement with the Kuraish to appease his countrymen

over the agreement with Israel.

"There were people here at the time, Islamic experts, who said the statement was threatening, that a president signs an agreement and then refers to a precedent whereby he can violate it. But then, there was a different party in the opposition, one which gave an example of proper behavior."

While Shaleh seemed to play down Arafat's Kuraish statement, he blasted his jihad remarks.

"If the terror attacks and the unfortunate pronouncements by Arafat and others, contradicting the provisions of the peace treaty, continue, we will continue talking to the Palestinians, but we will not implement the next stages until the PLO proves its

ability to control Gaza and Jericho efficiently and fulfills its obligation to us - all of them," he warned.

"Arafat's unfortunate statements prove again that it is the Palestinians who must fear any violation of the agreement. Any violation by them will restore the situation to what it was before... We have the power to act, and if we have to, we will. The IDF proved this week that it has credentials; we have collateral in the bank of promises and warnings."

Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav (Likud) told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: "You have to tell the citizens of Israel how you plan to prevent terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip. How will you prevent Katyusha attacks on Ashkelon?"

## Labor expresses no-confidence in Likud

DAN IZENBERG

LABOR Party leaders yesterday literally expressed no-confidence in the Likud by demanding a precise list of the names of opposition MKs who would pair off with absentee Moslem and Druse legislators before it would agree to hold a scheduled no-confidence debate on time.

The demand came during a house committee meeting summoned to hear a request by the Moslem and Druse MKs to postpone the debate until tomorrow so they could observe the Id al-Adha holiday. Coalition leaders backed the request for fear that the government would fall if the minority MKs did not participate.

Faction chairman Eli Dayan refused to accept at face value a Likud promise in principle to pair off with each of the Moslem and Druse MKs. Dayan, acting under strict orders from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a source said, insisted that Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav give him the names of all the Likud MKs who would stay away from the vote.

Katsav said he was offended by Dayan's evident mistrust, but finally agreed to provide the list. But he balked when Dayan insisted, contrary to Knesset regulations, that the speaker presiding over the vote be instructed to halt the proceedings if any of the opposition MKs on the list broke his word and voted against the government.

Dayan's demand also proved too much for coalition MKs including Avraham Poraz (Meretz), Emanuel Zisman (Labor) and Rafi Elul (Labor), and he finally relented.

### Tamir to be honored on World Environment Day

THE United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has elected former MK Yosef Tamir to join its Global 500 Roll of Honor at a ceremony to be held in London marking World Environment Day next month.

The award was granted to Tamir for "his outstanding work in helping to protect and improve the environment," UNEP said.

Tamir is a long-time environmentalist. In 1969 he helped establish the Council for a Beautiful Israel and today he heads Life and Environment, an umbrella organization for all the country's green groups. As an MK between 1965 and 1981, Tamir was well known as the leading spokesman for a better quality of environment.

### Protesters demand probe into 'vanished Yemenites'

Some 2,000 people demonstrated last night in favor of the establishment of a commission of enquiry into the disappearance of Yemenite children in the early days of the State.

The Rehovot rally's slogan was "I am searching for my brother." Among the speakers was MK Avner Shaki (National Religious Party).

Our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother  
**HANA (Hansi) BUCHSWEILER**  
has passed away.

The funeral took place at Kibbutz Dorot on May 23, 1994.

Mourning by the Buchsweilers, Kistev and Efrat families.

In deep sorrow, we announce the untimely passing of our dear

**MICHAEL TUCHLER** מ"ח

Gerda Tuchler  
Gabriela Eisenberg and Family  
Hannah Goldfinger and Family  
The Family in the United States



An Israeli policeman (left) answers a complaint yesterday from an Israeli Arab youth as two Palestinian Police officers and a resident look on during a joint patrol in Jericho. (Reuters)

## 'No plans for Arafat to visit Jerusalem soon'

BILL HUTMAN and news agencies

THERE are no concrete plans for a visit by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to Jerusalem, according to both Palestinian and Israeli sources.

While not ruling out the eventuality of such a visit, the sources emphasized that it would not happen soon.

PLO sources said Arafat would likely enter Gaza from Egypt sometime next month, and a ceremony would be held there with leaders from around the world. Arafat would then proceed to Jericho, the sources said, but Jerusalem would not be on his itinerary.

"I don't believe that either we or the Israelis are prepared for the symbolism that such a return [to Jerusalem] would have," said a senior PLO official. "It's still too early" for Arafat to come to

Jerusalem, he added.

Security sources noted they had received no orders to begin preparing for an Arafat visit to Jerusalem, which they said would require weeks of planning.

Both Israeli and Palestinian sources said recent widely published reports that an Arafat visit was imminent were completely unfounded.

The reports were in part sparked by a statement by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to the effect the government was prepared to allow Arafat in Jerusalem. Olmert, who vowed to lead a massive demonstration aimed at toppling an Arafat visit, declined to say what he based his statement on.

"Can you really imagine Arafat

coming to Jerusalem now, after his statement [about a jihad for Jerusalem]?" the PLO official asked.

Arafat will chair the Palestinian self-rule authority for the Gaza Strip and Jericho when it meets for the first time tomorrow in Tunis, PLO sources there said yesterday, according to Reuters.

The PLO has named 17 of the 25 members of the Palestinian National Authority and remaining members should be announced after the meeting, the sources said. The authority will plan for operations over the next few months and assign duties to members, the sources added.

Arafat advisor, Ahmed Tibi told Channel One last night that the authority will meet soon in

Gaza and cancel all aspects of the Palestinian Covenant relating to the destruction of Israel.

PLO official Faisal Hussein told the Beirut weekly *Al-Azhar* yesterday that, recently formed Palestinian institutions have established their offices in Jerusalem. These include the Palestinian Council for Economic Development, the Housing Council, the technical teams, and the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics.

Hussein claimed Israel is trying to frustrate their operation in Jerusalem, but said the Palestinians would not give in to Israeli pressure. He negated attempts to move Palestinian educational institutions out of the city, saying, "We must strive to establish institutions in the heart of the city of Jerusalem and not on the city's periphery."

## Palestinian Police to register, not confiscate weapons

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Police will soon start a registration drive for unlicensed weapons; however, there are no plans at this stage to confiscate arms except from those considered to be criminals or collaborators.

Hamas supporters, which issued statements last week refusing to give up weapons until Israeli soldiers and settlers did, marched from Gaza City's Palestine Square to the Islamic University yesterday. The march commemorated Id al-Adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice. Different

sources put the number of marchers at between 5,000 to 10,000. Some carried green flags, but no one fired weapons. Few policemen were in the area.

Hamas has said members of its armed wing will not use their weapons in Palestinian-controlled areas if the police leave them alone.

Islamic Jihad, following Hamas, issued a statement yesterday refusing to give up their weapons to the Palestinian Authority, despite a call by local Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein to do so.

"While the Zionists bomb and bulldoze our houses we... will not give up our weapons," said the group in a statement faxed to an international news agency, Reuters reported.

Jericho police spokesman Mohammed Bakr said that at this time there was no intention of taking away weapons, "except from criminals," which, he did not define, but included those considered collaborators with Israel. "In the future the police are going to register guns," he said, but no

time limit has yet been set. He said this was true for Gaza as well.

In an interview in the Jerusalem daily *Al-Quds* on Friday, Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub said there were three categories of weapon owners: "fighters against occupation, collaborators and personal security." He said the last type should be registered and the second confiscated.

He did not say what should be done with the "fighter" category. However, in an interview with AP yesterday he said all guns would have to be registered and described Islamic Jihad's threats as "childish games."

## 40,000 hear gov't opponents in New York

EMILY TORGAN

NEW YORK

SOME 40,000 people turned out for a concert and rally at which Ariel Sharon and other opponents of the Rabin government spoke in New York's Central Park following Sunday's Salute to Israel Parade. An estimated 500,000 people attended the parade.

"The Land of Israel belongs to you," Sharon reportedly called out to the cheering crowd. "The responsibility for what is going on in Israel is yours no less than ours."

In response to Yasser Arafat's recent jihad remarks, Sharon called upon Jews to "defend Jerusalem" and asked for a "positive,

constructive Jewish jihad to defend and settle Jerusalem."

New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind spoke as well, calling the concert "the first major opportunity for the Jewish community in New York to speak out and make a very clear statement that the land of Israel, the heartland, Judea and Samaria, is part of the Jewish homeland, and that no part of Israel will be *Judenrein*."

The crowd responded overwhelmingly to calls for support for the Jewish communities of greater

Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the Jordan Valley, and the Golan Heights. The audience also booed wildly at mentions of any actions or policies viewed as "against Jewish life," whether they were taken by the PLO or the Israeli government.

In contrast to the orderly parade, the concert and speeches were loud and unruly.

The concert's theme, taken from a passage in of Isaiah, was "For the sake of Israel, we dare not remain silent." The event was sponsored by the Israel Concert in the Park Committee in Association with the National Council of Young Israel.

## Detention of Federman, Gopstein extended

HERB KEINON

THE administrative detention orders against Kach activists Noam Federman and Ben Zion Gopstein were extended by another three months by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran yesterday. They have been held for three months.

Federman and Gopstein, picked up soon after the government's decision to crack down on Kach and Kahane Ha' after the Hebron massacre, were scheduled to be released on Thursday, as is

detainee, Eyal Noked.

There are currently seven Jews under administrative detention. Two others, Michael Ben-Horin and Shmuel Ben-Yishai, have already been released.

Federman's wife, Elisheva, said that families and supporters of the two men are considering how to fight the newest order. "It is inconceivable that terrorist murderers are released, and my husband

has to remain in prison. My husband is sitting in jail without trial, only because the government wants to shut people up."

Federman contacted the Association for Civil Rights in Israel for help on Sunday. ACRI represented Federman earlier this year when he appealed the original administrative detention order.

ACRI lawyer Dan Yakir said the organization will consider representing Federman again, if formally requested to do so.

### NEWSLINE

with NUZHAT KATZAV

Nuzhat Katzav is the head of the Histadrut's Consumer Protection Authority.

Electricity prices have just gone up again. Is this justified?

Absolutely not. We plan to protest. I cannot understand the justification for this. I will send a letter to the ministers of energy and finance to complain. But who knows if this will help... I am also very angry that the bank interest rates have gone up for a second time.

How is the price for electricity calculated?

There is a formula which links it to the cost of fuel and the consumer index.

Why do the Electric Corporation workers continue to get free electricity even though they use twice as much electricity as the average consumer?

This is part of their benefits.

just as El Al employees, for example, get free flights. But they must not take advantage of this. They exaggerate. Just as the ordinary citizen is required to try and conserve energy, the workers at the corporation must take steps to economize. They have managed to work more efficiently. But they also have to set an example by cutting their use of electricity.

The Electric Corporation has spent large sums advertising that the real price of electricity has gone down. Have you checked this?

I don't have any independent findings on this at the moment. But the corporation did take steps forward this year as far as the consumer is concerned. They have signed an agreement with us to provide consumer benefits.

Basheva Tsor

## Congressional group protests Arafat's jihad comment

MILLE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's recent jihad statements on Jerusalem "call into question" his commitment to peace, a congressional panel maintains.

In a letter sent to Arafat last week, the congressional Peace Accord Monitoring Group (PAMG) said those statements, made at a mosque in Johannesburg earlier this month, "represent evidence that you are wavering on commitments you made when you signed the Declaration of Principles" in September.

The group was formed three weeks ago to ensure compliance with last fall's accord. It intends to report to the administration on, primarily, the PLO's adherence to its commitment to both refrain from and denounce terrorism.

The letter, signed by nine representatives, concedes that jihad does not always mean a full-scale mili-

tary attack. But since it generally refers to an armed struggle, the congressmen wrote, "we, therefore, strongly urge that you unequivocally reject the implication that armed force should be used to determine the final status of Jerusalem. Your immediate and absolute disavowal and renunciation of the use of armed struggle is critical if peace is to come to the Middle East."

Frank Pizzurro, a spokesman for New York congressman Eliot Engel, a co-chairman of the PAMG, said yesterday that the group may also publicly support Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for Arafat to clarify his latest remarks about the ancient Jewish agreement.

"This may be an instance where we push our government to support the Israeli government on how they handle these statements. We want to be supportive," Pizzurro said.

## Man petitions High Court for 'right to enter Jericho'

EVELYN GORDON

THE IDF has no right to keep Israelis out of Jericho, since it has given up control over the city, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday.

In his petition, Mevasseret Yerushalayim resident Itamar Ben-Gvir said that since the signing of the Gaza/Jericho Accord, he has twice been refused entry into the city by the army, on the grounds that Jericho was a closed military area.

"The approach whereby on the one hand, [the army] no longer controls Jericho, but on the other, it behaves like a sovereign power, is unacceptable," Ben-Gvir wrote in his petition. "From the moment the IDF transferred its military and civilian authorities to the Arabs, it can no longer

determine who may or may not enter the city."

Meanwhile, the court yesterday rejected a petition by Gilon Ben-Sa'id, a settler who asked to repossess his army-issue weapon, which was taken away after the Hebron massacre.

Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr and Mishael Cheshin ruled that not only did intelligence information justify the army's decision, but Ben-Sa'id's police record did so as well. This record showed that Ben-Sa'id had been involved in shooting at Arabs, damaging Arab property, disrupting Arab traffic and confrontations with the army. The justices also noted that he had already been deprived of his civilian gun license after firing his pistol during a violent incident.

## IDF: We treated wounded efficiently at Beit Haggai

The IDF's medical treatment and evacuation of those wounded in last week's terror attack near Beit Haggai were "efficient and according to procedures," OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran said yesterday.

Biran himself conducted an investigation into the evacuation, following allegations army officers prevented Beit Haggai residents from approaching the vehicle and assisting the wounded, saying the car could be booby-trapped.

Biran determined that a paratroop platoon commander and his soldiers did everything possible to assist and evacuate the wounded.

## THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

**I HAVE MY OWN PROBLEMS**

Sometimes our problems pale alongside others. The lonely child in an orphan home or hospital for the chronically ill has precious little to call his own. It may not take much to make the difference between despair and joy, but if it isn't there, it makes all the difference in the world.

The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund has been bringing cheer into children's lives for 45 years. Not only at Hanukkah, but all year 'round.

You have your own problems, sure. But don't let them stop you from helping a child. Give to the Jerusalem Post Toy Fund. P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, Israel.





# Na'amat backs social workers' strike

NA'AMAT, the country's largest women's labor organization, yesterday came out in support of the social workers' strike, today entering its 34th day.

Attorney Ofra Friedman, Na'amat's secretary-general elect, told a Tel Aviv press conference the organization identifies with the social workers, whose demands would cost society less than the daily cost of the strike.

"The cost of meeting the social workers' demands is minor compared to the economic damage caused by each additional day of the strike to hundreds of thou-

sands of families not receiving vital services," Friedman said.

She noted that, in just one example found by the Histadrut's institute for socio-economic research, the strike has virtually paralyzed the country's mental hospitals, extending the stay of some 5,200 patients who cannot be released. This costs the state over NIS 4 million a day, she said.

Following the cabinet's approval on Sunday, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir yesterday issued 70 back-to-work orders to essential social workers, saying she did so against her will

Jerusalem Post Staff

to protect the needy. Union organizers reacted by announcing that those workers served with injunctions would immediately begin a hunger strike.

Friedman told reporters she had met with outgoing Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld, who promised to enlist the support of Histadrut unions for the strike, as well as the unions of the Israeli Electric Corporation and Bezek.

Social Workers Union secretary Eli Ben-Gera welcomed Na'amat's support, saying one of the

reasons for the strike is the fact that 87 percent of social workers are women.

"It is for this reason the Treasury treats them as a weak group and is so contemptuous of our struggle," Ben-Gera said.

Treasury officials said yesterday they are prepared to give the social workers a 42 percent increase — a wage hike over and above those granted to other unions — but they could not meet the social workers' demand to double their wages.

Speaking to the Knesset social affairs committee, Finance Minis-

ter Avraham Shohat said everyone wants the strike to end, but warned the committee against becoming involved in the negotiations.

Treasury wage chief Shalom Granit said he is prepared to hold intensive talks with the striking social workers, but only if they drop their "impossible" demands.

Granit said the average gross salary for a social worker in December 1993 stood at NIS 3,127, compared with NIS 3,074 for a public sector academic employee or NIS 3,317 for a public sector engineer.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Four-year-old killed in fall from balcony

Oded Tamrov, 4, fell to his death from the balcony of his family's eighth-floor apartment in Kfar Sava yesterday morning. Kfar Sava police are investigating the circumstances of his death.

### Father, son killed in traffic accident

Hamad Saad, 34, and his son Amin, 24, were killed yesterday morning when a truck, driven by a member of Kibbutz Eln Harod, ran a red light at the Yagur junction near Haifa, and smashed into their car. Another son, Wafik, 22, was seriously injured. He was taken to Rambam Hospital.

Yigal Kotzer

### Egyptian gets 18 months for smuggling

An Egyptian convicted of illegal entry and tobacco smuggling was sentenced to 18 months in prison by Beersheba District Court yesterday.

In July 1993, border policemen and IDF trackers captured four smugglers who crossed the border from Egypt carrying tobacco sacks. In one of the sacks, a large amount of heroin was found. Genam Shatwi, 46, pleaded guilty to the smuggling charges, and in return the heroin charge was dropped.

Amir Rozenblit

### Aftershocks felt in the north

Residents in the north reported feeling slight earth movement and seeing pictures moving on walls, following a tremor centered near Crete in the Mediterranean Sea yesterday morning.

The earthquake, registering 6.3 on the Richter scale, occurred about 1,000 km. west of Israel. The Seismological Institute said there were no reports of damage or injuries here.

### Haifa police stop gang war

Police yesterday succeeded in preventing a gang war between 9th and 10th graders from two Haifa schools, after having been tipped off by teachers.

The pupils had arranged the clash during school, and armed themselves with wooden clubs and iron bars. Nine pupils were arrested.

Yigal Kotzer

### Rafael workers plan stormy demo

Workers at the Haifa plant of Rafael, the armaments development authority, announced they intend to block the Haifa-Acre road this morning at eight as part of a protest demonstration against the suspension of two workers. The two senior workers were suspended after they refused to travel abroad to conclude an export deal that is allegedly part of the management's efforts to turn Rafael into a profit-making industry. The police announced they intend to bring augmented units to enforce an orderly demonstration and to keep the road open.

Yigal Kotzer

### Ex-promoter sues to block reggae festival

A former management partner at Achziv Beach yesterday asked the Haifa District Court to prevent Kibbutz Geshet Haziv and Roxanne Ltd. from holding this weekend's reggae festival.

Micha Ne'eman claims he had helped the kibbutz win the tender to manage the beach this year, on the understanding that they would use his services to manage concerts on the beach.

Instead, he said, the kibbutz asked Roxanne to organize the festival, thus violating their understanding and causing him "inestimable" financial damage. The defense has not yet submitted its brief, and the court has set a hearing for tomorrow.

Itim

### Maltese ship suspected of damaging Zim vessel

The Haifa District Court yesterday issued an injunction preventing the ship Mavroudis from leaving Ashdod port. The Maltese-flag ship is suspected of hitting the Zim Ashdod, causing some \$175,000 in damage.

Offer Brothers, owners of Zim Ashdod, asked the court to prevent the boat from leaving until the compensation is settled.

Yigal Kotzer

### Israeli, African science academies sign pact

A first agreement for scientific cooperation between the African Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences has been signed.

Israel academy president Prof. Joshua Jortner said that in the first stage of the agreement, joint research will be carried out in the fields of tropical medicine and desertification.

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ten of spades, ten of hearts, seven of diamonds and eight of clubs.

## Id al-Adha celebrants damage Ein Fash'ha reserve

LIAT COLLINS

PALESTINIANS celebrating Id al-Adha have caused serious damage to the Ein Fash'ha Nature Reserve by the Dead Sea, according to Nature Reserve Authority officials.

Some 5,000 residents of Judea and Samaria came to the reserve during the first day of the three-day feast, causing tremendous traffic jams. Some 3,000 decided to combat the problem by driving their cars through the fences or climbing over the gates, said NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein.

"Five fires broke out in the area, despite laws banning people from bringing food or lighting fires in a reserve, and piles of garbage were found all over the place this morning," Weinstein noted.

Many day trippers also tried to penetrate into the closed section of the reserve and as a result rocks and stones fell on the entrance road from the cliff top, she said.

The members of a private security company hired to maintain order at the site allegedly ran away when they lost control, and Weinstein said the police and IDF each put the responsibility for the area on the other and took no action.

"We are preparing extra manpower to cope with the remainder of the holiday," Weinstein said.

Meanwhile, the NRA has praised a Ness Harim resident whose quick thinking saved a baby buzzard, a protected species, this week. On a visit to visited east Jerusalem, Naftali Rafael noticed a man holding the fledgling. He bought the bird for NIS 150 and contacted the NRA.

NRA wardens transferred the buzzard to the Raptor Center at Abu Kabir Zoological Gardens, but hope to return it to the Judean desert as soon as possible.

NRA officials said there are two most likely explanations for the young buzzard ending up in east Jerusalem: either it fell from its nest and was picked up or it was stolen from its nest for commercial purposes.

## Jibril jamming Israel Radio broadcasts

LIAT COLLINS

AHMED Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command is jamming Israel Radio's Arabic broadcasts in the Galilee, Syria and Lebanon, according to Israel Broadcasting Authority officials.

Its station in southern Syria broadcasts inflammatory anti-Israel propaganda between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Immediately after its broadcasts end, it begins the jamming, the officials said.

Israel Radio Arabic Department head Edmond Saha'ik said the interference was apparently aimed at destroying the influence Israel Radio has on its listeners. A recent survey commissioned by commercial groups showed that more than 70 percent of Israeli Arabs listen to Israel Radio's Arabic-language broadcasts. Another survey of Arabs in the territories found that 90% listen to the station. Other reports estimate that nearly 50% of Syrians listen intermittently to the Israeli station and another 31% are regular listeners.



Midori, the world-famous Japanese violinist, spent an hour at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital yesterday performing for young patients. In a visit organized by Erica Jesselson, who is in Jerusalem for the opening of the hospital's new heart center donated in memory of her husband Ludwig, the violinist played a number of her favorite pieces. Midori, 23, started playing when she was four and was discovered at 10 by Zubin Mehta.

(Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Uri Schwarz)

## Knesset committee okays extending Building Permits Law

LIAT COLLINS

AMID protests from all the country's environmental groups, the Knesset interior committee yesterday endorsed the extension of the Expedited Building Permits (Emergency Measures) Law, which will probably have its second and third readings next week.

Greens note that the bill skips many environmental demands as to shorten the permit request process, bypassing the stricter Building and Construction Law.

The emergency measures law actually expired at the end of April but in discussions held last week at the insistence of the Prime Minister's Office and Housing and Construction Ministry, it was determined that it could be revived retroactively.

The two ministries claim that the expedited building process is the only means of coping with the housing shortage in the center of the country, however committee chairman MK Yehoshua Matza (Likud), who opposed reviving the law, said it has been "abused by speculators" and "work has only begun on 10 percent of the one million units presented for approval since the law was first passed." The law was originally authorized as a six-month temporary measure in 1990, but it has been regularly extended.

Matza yesterday demanded that the government promise not to ask to extend it again. He said the government had not paid sufficient attention to needy neighborhoods in the center of the country

where building programs could help solve problems of neglect and the lack of housing.

"The law is an ecological catastrophe," said Joseph Tamir, the head of Life and Environment, the green umbrella organization. "It is anti-social and anti-environmental to bring about so much building without considering the impact. This is lost land."

Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel chairman Yoav Sagi also blasted the law which he said works against the interests of poorer areas, like Kiryat Gat and Beersheba, by promoting building in the center of the country causing a rise in land value there.

"It seems to stem from the government's obsession to show it is doing something without considering the price that will be paid by those same residents, who will live in neighborhoods with no sewage infrastructure, and the rest of the country, which will suffer from the consequent pollution and environmental blight," said an SPNI spokeswoman.

Meanwhile, the national planning and construction council is to meet today to discuss other controversial projects, including the five major landfills. The planned Calatite dump has raised the ire of the National Parks Authority, which claims that it is located next to the Beit Guvrin archeological site. The planned Talya dump in the Jordan Valley is also being opposed by local residents, who say it will affect tourism in the area.

## Diamond Exchange answers Fire Commission criticism

Following the Fire and Rescue Commission's stiff criticism of what it described as a lack of sufficient fire precautions and unsatisfactory arrangements for disposing of dangerous chemicals at the Ramat Gan Diamond Exchange, director Dan Harni wrote a letter to Commissioner Shlomo Cohen yesterday.

He said the exchange is willing to take preventative measures and to conduct fire drills under the commission's guidance.

Cohen had complained that commission officials had discussed the matter with exchange management during the past year, but the latter had not carried out the proposed changes.

Cohen had suggested the exchange purchase its own crane, capable of reaching higher floors of the 30-story building, since the Fire Commission here does not have one, but Harni replied that he believes the commission is responsible for this.

Raine Marcus

## Bill would eliminate psychometric exams

HAIM SHAPIRO

IN MANY cases, the psychometric examinations actually increase a student's chance of university acceptance, according to Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arieh, rector of the Hebrew University.

He was speaking at a meeting of the Knesset education committee on proposed legislation, submitted by Esther Salmovitz (Y'ud), which would eliminate these exams so that students would be admitted solely on the basis of their matriculation examination scores.

Salmovitz said the psychometrics place a heavy burden on the student, do not always reflect the student's true abilities, and are not absolutely reliable.

Committee chairman Avraham Burg said there is a widespread feeling that the examinations hinder students who wish to go to university. It does not matter, he said, whether this feeling is justified, it has to be taken into consideration.

Edna Harel, an adviser to Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, said he feels that there is no justification for the universities to demand the psychometric exam for entry to all faculties. He asked that every faculty examine its suitability to its special needs, since there had been variations in its validity in predicting academic success.

Meanwhile, the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation, the body which designs and administers the psychometrics, issued a statement saying that a study which encompassed 93,000 students had indicated that there is a strong correlation between success in the examinations, together with high bagrut grades, and academic success. If either of the two factors is absent, the correlation dropped.

## No immediate health danger from Nile perch imported from Kenya

JUDY SIEGEL

ALTHOUGH Lake Victoria has been declared a "disaster area" by the government of Uganda due to tens of thousands of bodies of Rwandan civil war victims being washed up in it, there is no immediate health danger from Nile perch imported from Kenya, experts said yesterday.

Dr. Robert Singer, the Health Ministry's chief veterinarian, asked Kenya for information about the condition of the fish in Lake Victoria, in which bodies have been floating for weeks. The Ugandans fear cholera outbreaks, especially in three areas bordering on Rwanda.

Nevertheless, Singer said that even when shipments of Nile perch (*netichan hanilus*) arrive, ministry laboratory

workers will conduct bacteriological and chemical tests, just as they test samples of all imported products. Any fish found to be unacceptable will not be marketed, the ministry said.

Prof. Hillel Bercovier, a Hebrew University expert in fish diseases, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that he knows of no cases in which fish have transmitted infectious diseases to humans.

Benzi Cohen of Supersol said he knew of no drop in sales of Nile perch in the wake of TV broadcasts showing tens of thousands of bodies of Rwandans in Lake Victoria. Supplies of frozen fish now in the markets arrived some time ago and were not affected by the current tragedy in Rwanda, he said.

## Immigrant who lied about being Jewish loses citizenship

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday supported the Interior Ministry's decision to revoke the citizenship of a Russian immigrant caught lying about her Jewishness.

Kalbadia Torschachev immigrated from Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 1992 with her non-Jewish husband and two children, all of whom received visas on the strength of Torschachev's claim that she was Jewish. When she went to receive her identity card, however, the Interior Ministry's suspicions were aroused by the fact that, though she was born in 1956, her birth certificate was issued only in 1981.

The ministry asked her several times to come clarify the issue, but she refused. It therefore transferred her file to the Foreign Min-

istry's consular division, which, after investigating the matter, recommended that her citizenship be revoked because she had lied on her application. In January 1993, the Interior Ministry did so.

In August 1993, the ministry gave Torschachev another chance to prove her Jewishness, holding a hearing with her, her lawyer and various witnesses. However, the ministry decided that the hearing merely confirmed its original decision. Torschachev then petitioned the High Court.

Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr and Eliahu Mazza found, however, that there was a wealth of evidence to support the minis-

try's decision. Investigations by the police forensics department had shown that entries on both Torschachev's birth certificate and that of her children had been erased and written over. Furthermore, her birth certificate bore the number 3152 — a number which, according to the population registry in Dushanbe, belonged to another woman.

In addition, two other Russian immigrants testified that they had known Torschachev in Russia, and that she was not Jewish. Both complained that she had threatened them if they revealed this information. Furthermore, the Ukrainian address which Torschachev listed as her mother's on her application does not exist.



## Israeli Friends International

A number of places are still available in the "Ambassadors' mission to Russia. 15 days of unforgettable experiences, to be gained while staying with Russian families.

First week in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) and environs, second week in Moscow and environs.

Departure: June 28, 1994  
Return: July 13, 1994  
Total cost: \$1225

Details and booking: Rafi, Mission Coordinator,  
03-5348162; or Ruti Toledo,  
The Jerusalem Post, 03-6390333.

**TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY**

**Inauguration of the Stanley Steyer Institute for Cancer Epidemiology and Research**

In the presence of  
**Mr. Roni Milo**  
Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo

Lecture  
**Professor Baruch Modan**  
Director of the Institute

**Authority and Responsibility Who is in Charge of Carcinogenic Hazards and their Sequelae?**

**An International Symposium CANCER PREVENTION POLICY**

Lectures  
**Lewis H. Kuller, M.D., Dr. P.H.**  
University of Pittsburgh

**Why Have We Failed to Prevent Breast Cancer?**  
**Manning Feinleib, M.D., Dr. P.H.**  
NCBS, CDC, USA

**Setting and Monitoring Cancer Objectives for the Nation**  
**Witold Zatonski, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of Warsaw

**Cancer Epidemiology in Poland Leads for Prevention**  
**Klim McPherson, Ph.D.**  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**The Dilemma of Cancer Prevention**  
**Are We Screening More But Achieving Less?**

**Panel Discussion with the Participation of the Lecturers**  
**The Role of Government**  
**in Setting Cancer Prevention Priorities and Enforcement**  
Chairman: Professor Mordechai Shani  
Director General, Ministry of Health

**Awarding of the Professor Michaela Modan Memorial Award**  
on Wednesday, May 25, 1994 at 9:00 a.m. at the  
Faslich Auditorium, Mexico Building,  
Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv  
Entrance through Dan Bechner Gate (8)

— The public is invited —



## North Yemen claims major victory

SAN'A (AP) - North Yemen yesterday claimed to have seized an important oil-rich southeastern province in its advance on Aden, capital of the breakaway south whose leader has vowed not to surrender to "tyranny and oppression."

Meanwhile, international relief agencies prepared to launch an effort to move up to 5,000 Somali refugees from in and around their camp at al-Kowt, 30 km east of Aden, to a "safe area" 50 km north.

The refugee camp is on the frontline of the battles that broke out between northern and southern forces May 5 and refugees say at least 175 Somalis have been killed. UN officials confirm that refugees have been killed, but say they do not know how many.

Yemen collapsed into civil war after months of skirmishing between northern and southern forces amid increasing tension between the nation's president and vice president who forged the union of the conservative north and formerly Marxist south May 22, 1990.

The south long complained of what it said were northern efforts to dominate the impoverished nation of 14 million, the first multi-party democracy on the Arabian peninsula.

In a broadcast on San'a radio, an official military source said northern troops Sunday seized a major military base in Ataq, the regional capital of Shabwa province.

The official said the base was captured "with all its arms, ammunition and installations and that thus the Shabwa province can be considered under total control of the north," according to the broadcast.

Both sides have issued exaggerated claims throughout the fighting and it was not possible to confirm the report independently.

Oil is the economic mainstay of this desert nation and Shabwa is the main oil producing province in the south, containing oil reserves estimated at 5 billion barrels. The Saudi oil company, Nimir, the French company Total and Canadian Occidental have oil prospecting concessions in Shabwa.

On Friday, the south announced it was seceding, formalizing Yemen's breakup. Ali Salem al-Beidh, vice president of unified Yemen, was named president of the newly declared Democratic Republic of Yemen which has not been internationally recognized.

A top assistant to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the northern leader, warned that any outside recognition of the south would leave Aden's 350,000 population exposed to "a consuming war."

Three people were killed and seven wounded when a northern missile hit a residential area near Aden airport Sunday, according to Aden radio.

But the north denied it had targeted residents.

Planning Minister Abdul-Karim el-Eryani, a senior Saleh aide, confirmed Sunday that northern troops had fired SS-21 missiles at Aden. But he said the projectiles, with a range of 80 km, hit Aden airport, destroying about 80 percent of the southern air force's operating capabilities.

Saleh has demanded that Beidh and his aides surrender for trial or leave the country to avert a blood-bath in Aden.

But Beidh vowed to fight on. "A catastrophe has befallen Yemen and we have done everything we can to avoid it," Beidh said Sunday. "We refuse tyranny and oppression and we refuse to surrender."



The casket bearing the remains of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is followed by, from left, her son John F. Kennedy Jr., daughter Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, son-in-law Edwin Schlossberg, and longtime companion Maurice Tempelsman as they depart from St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in New York following funeral services yesterday.

## Private service held for Jackie 'She was a blessing to us and to the nation'

NEW YORK (AP) - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was remembered yesterday as "a blessing to us and to the nation - and a lesson to the world on how to do things right."

Family and friends gathered inside a Park Avenue church to mourn in a private service, while hundreds of people stood outside to say a final goodbye to the former first lady.

In his prepared eulogy, Sen. Edward Kennedy said his sister-in-law "was always there - for all our family - in her special way."

"She was a blessing to us and to the nation - and a lesson to the world on how to do things right, how to be a mother, how to appreciate history, how to be courageous."

"I often think of what she said about Jack in December after he died. They made him a legend, when he would have preferred to be a man," the senator's remarks said. "Jackie would have preferred to be just herself, but the world insisted that she be a legend too."

The current first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, was one of the early arrivals for the funeral at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, along with former first lady Lady Bird Johnson.

At exactly 10 a.m., a hearse carrying a dark mahogany casket covered with ferns and a cross of white flowers arrived from Mrs. Onassis' Fifth Avenue apartment building. It was followed by four limousines carrying the Kennedy entourage and a police escort.

At the service, Mrs. Onassis' son John F. Kennedy Jr. read a passage from the Bible. Her daughter, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, 36, and Mrs. Onassis' companion of many years, Maurice Tempelsman, also were slated to speak briefly.

Mrs. Onassis, 64, widow of President Kennedy and of millionaire Aristotle Onassis, died at her Fifth Avenue home Thursday night of cancer. A private wake

was held inside the 10-room apartment on Sunday evening.

Though services were private, it didn't stop the masses from coming to say good-bye.

Annabelle Slattery, who works at the William Doyle art gallery where Mrs. Onassis occasionally went to look at paintings, was one of the few who actually met the former first lady.

"I had the honor of speaking with her about exhibits," Slattery said. "She was very reserved but most gracious."

Security was extremely tight. Police kept onlookers several blocks from the church behind barricades. The blocks surrounding the church were closed to all except residents, who had to prove they lived in the area.

During Sunday's wake, a crowd out on the street 15 stories below chanted, "We love Jackie!"

Mrs. Onassis was buried later yesterday in Arlington National Cemetery, next to President Kennedy, who was assassinated Nov.

22, 1963 while in office.

Her resting place is between President Kennedy and the couple's first child, an unnamed daughter stillborn in 1956. Buried on the other side of the assassin's president is another of their four children: Patrick, who died three days after his birth in August 1963.

The site, marked by an eternal flame to honor the slain president, is the most visited shrine in the 247-hectare cemetery, attracting nearly 4 million people annually.

President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton planned to attend the private burial service, conducted by retired New Orleans Archbishop Philip M. Hannan. Clinton was to make some brief remarks.

The president decided not to attend the funeral with his wife because he thought his presence would conflict with "the wishes of the family to keep it private," a White House spokeswoman said.

IISS director John Chipman said that while the intractable nature of world problems was partly to blame, the United States had also displayed "an ambivalent attitude towards the use of force and an unwillingness to change the order of things."

This approach, "if carried to its logical conclusion, would make strategic arthritis a permanent malady of the great powers," Chipman told a news conference.

The survey said the difficulty of peacekeeping in Somalia and Bosnia, "where there was no peace to keep," meant the UN role of world policeman had to be rethought.

"The passage from the organized, if undesirable, certainties of the Cold War era to a perhaps sounder system will take longer than many initially thought."

The institute said the year had shown that little could be achieved without a lead from the great powers. But they had been preoccupied with domestic concerns and it had taken individual atrocities to spur them into action.

A mortar attack on Sarajevo which killed 65 people on February 6 finally led NATO to break the Serb siege of the city. A massacre by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron on February 25 gave a vital prod to Middle East peace talks.

The survey said the United States had followed an even more unsteady course than usual and President Bill Clinton, despite clear views on domestic affairs, Washington created a force to end the strife in Somalia. "But it took very few Americans' deaths to convince Clinton that if the Somalis would not play the game the way he wanted to play it, it was time to gather up his marbles and go home."

America had also pursued a "dubious" policy on Haiti, first supporting and then backing away from exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. A decision to recall US troops sent to Haiti was "an extraordinary show of ineptitude," the IISS said.

US efforts to force North Korea to open its nuclear sites had "ambiguous results" and the world could not evade painful decisions. The institute called for "stronger measures that will force North Korea to divulge its nuclear plans."

On the European Union, the report said: "The EU must stop examining its own navel and turn its thoughts to the world outside."

Nor did the survey spare Russia. President Boris Yeltsin and his reformist supporters had "frustrated away" their chances after closing parliament last October and had given free rein to nationalists and ex-communists at the subsequent elections.

The IISS said Russia's use of the term "near abroad" to describe other ex-Soviet states had "particularly dangerous implications," implying Moscow did not accept their independence.

## Think-tank IISS says West suffers 'strategic arthritis'

LONDON (Reuters) - The West suffered from "strategic arthritis" over the past year, with the US and other powers taking a no-risk approach that failed to tackle key world problems, an influential think-tank said yesterday.

The stumbling policy of Washington and its allies on Bosnia, Somalia, North Korea and Haiti made clear that the shift from the Cold War to a new order would take longer than expected, said the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

"It was a year in which the powers in the West... seemed to be suffering from a serious attack of strategic arthritis," the London-based institute said in its annual report on the world scene, *Strategic Survey 1993-1994*.

"This affliction appeared to affect all but the world's most dangerous and irresponsible powers. It meant that few great risks were taken, or enduring commitments made, to address large strategic issues."

The IISS, an independent body with members in over 90 countries, said the United States appeared to want a guarantee of its security policy and took an approach of "no-risk insurance" to peacekeeping by UN forces.

"By the end of the year the US would insist on no open-ended commitments, assurance of victory without casualties, and an exit strategy," it said. "These are awesome guarantees to ask for in today's uncertain world."

The IISS director John Chipman said that while the intractable nature of world problems was partly to blame, the United States had also displayed "an ambivalent attitude towards the use of force and an unwillingness to change the order of things."

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The IISS said Russia's use of the term "near abroad" to describe other ex-Soviet states had "particularly dangerous implications," implying Moscow did not accept their independence.

While Beijing has mounted a campaign to strengthen its legal system by issuing new laws, approving law offices and improving education, it has not addressed the question of whether or not the courts are impartial.

Many Chinese assume they are not and are run instead on a system of favours and favouritism rigged to benefit those in power.

The *Legal Daily* was clearly aware it was broaching a sensitive subject: the words "judicial independence" were put in quotation marks in the headline.

The official media is sometimes used by different factions within the ruling elite to float policy ideas which may not be widely accepted. Editors and reporters risk their careers.

The newspaper said China should study the judicial systems of both developed and Third World countries in setting its own legal framework, citing the example of Argentina where "even the president of the republic can under no circumstances exercise judicial authority."

While stating that China's own legal and judicial system had gone through great changes in recent years, the *Legal Daily* said there were still many factors "which seriously affect fair trial."

## NATO hopes for Russian commitment

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - NATO is hoping that Moscow will give a clear signal to a meeting of defense ministers in Brussels yesterday that it wants closer ties with the Western military alliance.

It wants Russia to sign the "Partnership for Peace" scheme which is on offer to all Eastern European states and former Soviet republics.

Moscow has been pushing for an agreement that would recognise its special status as a major world power and NATO officials are concerned that relations with Russia could turn sour.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is expected to outline Moscow's demands to NATO in more detail following a meeting of alliance defense ministers yesterday which will also tackle Bosnia and other European security issues.

Alliance officials say they hope Grachev will commit Russia to signing the partnership, which provides for closer military links - although the main reason for his visit to Brussels is to brief NATO on Russia's new military doctrine.

NATO, worried by Russian criticism of its action in Bosnia and problems on other issues such as arms control, has made some effort to meet Moscow's demands that it must be given a special sta-

tus in relations with the 16-nation alliance.

The alliance has agreed in principle that there will have to be a "special relationship" with Moscow which can be developed over time, separately from the partnership scheme. But NATO is unwilling to sign any formal agreement or treaty with Russia.

NATO denies any suggestion that Moscow might be given a veto over alliance decisions. Eastern European states, Moscow's former satellites, are worried that Russia could successfully block their aim of joining NATO as full members.

The alliance strategy may not be enough for Russia.

President Boris Yeltsin repeated last week that Russia wanted its size and weight recognised in some kind of special protocol - either as part of the partnership scheme or as a separate agreement.

Before Grachev arrives at NATO later yesterday, ministers are expected to discuss the alliance's actions in Bosnia, broader defense plans and how to tackle the global spread of nuclear and chemical weapons.

It is the first meeting of NATO ministers since a summit in January which launched the "Partnership for Peace" scheme and reforms of the alliance's military structure.

## Jewish companion devoted years to her

JESSIE MANGALIMAN  
NEW YORK

MAURICE Tempelman, the man who was Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' constant companion and at her bedside when she died, is a wealthy diamond merchant who is separated but not divorced from his wife.

But for the past six years, Tempelman, 64, lived with Onassis in her Fifth Avenue co-op, a devoted and protective companion. Only a few days ago, he was photographed walking with her in Central Park holding her hand, poised as if to shield her from a fall.

"This thoughtful, unlikely, Jewish gentleman has put an aura of tranquility around her... he protects her, understands her position and respects her privacy," said Samuel Pizar, an American lawyer in Paris, in a 1991 interview with *Good Housekeeping* magazine.

Tempelman has not legally divorced his wife, Lily, a marriage counselor in Manhattan. They have been married for 41 years and have three children.

Tempelman was devoted to Onassis for the past 10 years.

"They don't need marriage because in many respects they are already married. They lack the piece of paper, but there's a spiritual bond," Rose Schreiber, Tempelman's cousin, was quoted as saying in a 1991 article in *USA Weekend*.

"He places no demands on her. That's the secret of their success," a friend was quoted as saying in a 1991 *People* magazine article.

Tempelman owns a yacht, the *Releamar*, on which Onassis entertained President Clinton and his family last summer off Martha's Vineyard. He likes opera, travel, sailing and talking to Jackie in French. He smokes cigars and is said to have a collection of rare Egyptian art.

Tempelman was born in Antwerp, Belgium, the same year as Onassis. His family fled Europe in 1940, and his father became a diamond broker. Tempelman dropped out of high school at 16 to join his father in the business.

Tempelman and Onassis met in the 1950s, through his lawyer, Ted Sorensen. Tempelman was a major contributor to the Democratic Party, and John Kennedy, married to Jacqueline, was a presidential aspirant.

But it wasn't until Jacqueline was widowed twice that her relationship with Tempelman flourished. In court, she won a \$26 million settlement for her share of Aristotle Onassis' estate, then she turned to Tempelman for investment advice. It was a wise move: Her estate grew to an estimated \$200 million.

In a 1989 article in *Good Housekeeping*, journalist Edward Klein, a friend of Onassis, quoted an unidentified friend: "There's no doubt about it. Maurice is absolutely crazy about her. He seems to relish looking after her."

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## PRESIDENT WEIZMAN WELCOMES OFFICIAL PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION



President Ezer Weizman and Mrs. Weizman welcomed at their residence in Jerusalem, the Secretary of the State Department of Puerto Rico, Mr. Baltasar Corrada del Rio, and Mrs. Beatriz Corrada, who visited Israel for the purpose of expanding economic relations and exploring opportunities of technical exchange between Puerto Rico and Israel.

In the picture: The President and Mrs. Weizman with Mr. and Mrs. Corrada del Rio.

## South Africa's cabinet opens first session

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - President Nelson Mandela's coalition cabinet met formally for the first time yesterday amid a row over the transfer of tribal land to the Zulu King.

South Africa's new black and white ministers met in the cabinet room where white former president F.W. de Klerk initiated the apartheid reforms that opened the way for majority rule.

Before the session, Mandela had talks with Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi over the transfer of three million hectares of land in the former black homeland KwaZulu to King Goodwill Zwelithini 24 hours before the April elections.

News reports have suggested that de Klerk transferred the land secretly, without Mandela's knowledge, to persuade Buthelezi and his Inkatha Freedom Party to take part in the election. De Klerk and Buthelezi have denied anything secret or underhand.

Mandela said the discussions with Buthelezi, the king's uncle

and home minister in the coalition government, had been "candid and harmonious".

On the land issue, he said: "This is a matter that is now on the agenda between the minister and myself. We are discussing it as a very sensitive and important issue."

Buthelezi responded testily when asked if he had discussed the repeal or amendment of the land transfer.

"It seems to me you do not want peace in this country," he snapped at reporters.

Mandela said soothingly: "The good relationship between Chief Buthelezi and myself is one that we can handle this issue to the satisfaction of all concerned."

The president said the land question and other political issues they discussed would be referred back to his African National Congress and Inkatha.

This suggested the matter could be bypassed in cabinet despite anger among some ANC ministers over the issue.





German Chancellor Kohl applauds as his candidate Roman Herzog (r) is introduced at the beginning of yesterday's voting. (AP)

## Kohl's candidate wins presidency on third ballot

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's candidate for German president won on the third ballot yesterday, ending a day of suspense over whether the government leader would suffer a political blow before this year's national election.

Roman Herzog, 60, president of the Constitutional Court, received 696 votes in the final round of balloting by a 1,324-member electoral college that chooses the head of state for a five-year term.

He defeated Johannes Rau of the opposition Social Democrats by 91 votes to become the German republic's seventh president since World War II and the first elected since reunification in 1990.

Rau had led in public opinion polls, and a loss by Herzog would have been a major blow to Kohl's prestige before national elections October 16. But the public did not vote. The delegates were the 662 members of parliament and an equal number chosen by the 16 state legislatures.

For a time it was unclear if the Free Democrats, a key swing party that is in Kohl's governing coalition, would support Herzog. Some

of party delegates wanted to back Rau, but more decided to go with Herzog after the first two ballots did not produce a winner and the Free Democrat candidate dropped out.

His voice cracking with emotion, the 60-year-old Herzog spoke of "the miracle we live" in holding the first such election in Berlin in 25 years.

"I will do everything ... to be the president of all Germans," he said, adding that the country faced a difficult future and its people had to overcome "limits of historical experience" and economic problems.

In postwar Germany, the president has only ceremonial duties and has generally been a moral leader who pulls Germans together, while the chancellor sets the political agenda.

Herzog replaces Richard von Weizsäcker, 74, whose performance over 10 years has been admired abroad and at home. He did not flinch from reminding Germans of the need to atone for the Nazi past, and, unlike Kohl, he openly demonstrated sympathy for victims of neo-Nazi violence.

## 2 bombs hit Northern Ireland

BELFAST (Reuters) — Two bombs exploded in Northern Ireland yesterday injuring five people.

The attacks in the troubled British province occurred as Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, met in Ballyconnell, Ireland, to review security issues and an Anglo-Irish peace declaration which they put forward last year.

Police said they believed the first bomb, which exploded at Belfast's City Hall, was placed on a windowledge outside an office used by Sinn Féin councillors. Sinn Féin is the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Police said one man was rushed to hospital with head and leg injuries. Another person was in a stable condition and two others were being treated for minor injuries.

The second blast occurred at a heavily fortified joint army-police base, Fort George, in Londonderry, 110 km northwest of Belfast. A soldier was injured in the blast, police said.

No one has claimed responsibility for either bomb attack. But a Sinn Féin spokesman said the explosion at Belfast's ornate City Hall was the work of Protestant extremists, who want Northern Ireland to remain under British control.

## US lawyer to challenge child-killer convictions

LONDON (Reuters) — A lawyer working for the American Civil Liberties Union is leading a legal challenge to the sentences handed down on two 11-year-old boys who killed a toddler last year, a British newspaper reported.

The European Court of Human Rights will be asked to strike down the life sentences given Robert Thompson and Jon Venables in November for torturing and killing two-year-old James Bulger earlier in 1993, the Independent reported.

It said the lawyer for the US legal rights group, who asked not to be named, said the sentence should guarantee that the two young killers were treated and not just incarcerated.

Thompson and Venables were "detained at Her Majesty's pleasure" after their trial — essentially

a life sentence. Under English law, anyone over age 10 can be convicted of a crime such as murder.

According to the newspaper, the lawsuit will aim not to release the boys but to set a fixed period for their prison sentences. It said the court could declare illegal the government's powers to decide when such prisoners are freed.

Bulger's abduction and killing sickened and terrified the nation and the revelation that two other children were responsible provoked a horrified uproar.

"Many citizens of some of the Western countries, including many Americans, were aghast that England would try to lock up children that young for murder," the lawyer was quoted as saying. "They are 11-year-old children who need the best of treatment, not punishment."

# Rwanda's rebels assume new clout

MARK FRITZ  
KIGALI

MORTAR and machine-gun fire boomed through Rwanda's shattered capital yesterday, breaking a UN-brokered truce almost as soon as it began as Rwanda's rebels counted the spoils of their week-end victories.

After three days of heavy fighting, rebels gained control of the international airport and a key army base next door filled with heavy weapons and dead enemies.

They also scored a psychological victory by seizing the presidential residence of President Juvenal Habyarimana, who died when his plane mysteriously crashed virtually in his back yard.

Habyarimana's death on April 6 triggered the widespread massacres by Hutu militias against the minority Tutsis and Hutus viewed as opponents of Rwanda's government.

Aircraft wreckage lay strewn throughout the lavish, landscaped grounds of the palatial presidential home scattered with government papers and filled with expensive artwork and dozens of size 12 Italian loafers.

The modern main terminal of the Gregor Kayibanda International Airport was battered mercilessly over the weekend, while UN officers hid in the basement. Acres of glass windows were nearly all shattered and bannisters were riddled with automatic weapons fire.

A pair of craters caused by mortar shelling on the roof left timbers and tiles hanging precariously from the high ceiling inside. One .81-mm mortar shell sat unexploded on the roof.

The adjacent army base was filled with the bodies of dead government soldiers. There also were more than a dozen anti-aircraft guns and scores of mortars, replacement parts and other supplies.

A UN-brokered truce was broken almost as soon as it began yesterday, and rebel commander Gen. Paul Kagame blamed government troops for firing the first shots.

"This morning the Rwandese government forces did not support the truce, so we had to hit back," he said.

UN officials had asked for the two-day truce to allow UN special envoy Iqbal Riza to talk with both sides about deploying 5,500 new peacekeepers in Rwanda.

Riza arrived yesterday for talks with rebel leaders in Mulindi, a rebel stronghold near the border



Ugandan fishermen pile up corpses for burial at Kasensero village 200 kilometers southwest of Kampala yesterday. The bodies were carried by Akagera River from Rwanda into Lake Victoria. (Reuters)

with Uganda. He was to talk with army officials in Kigali later yesterday and with interim government officials today in Gikama.

Just hours earlier Abdul Kabia, deputy director of the UN mission in Kigali, said the truce appeared to be holding, despite occasional shelling.

Theogene Rudasingwa, the secretary-general of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front, said at a Nairobi news conference that insurgents had agreed to hold their fire only when Riza is in the area.

An estimated three battalions of rebel troops overran the airport

and the army's adjacent Kanombe camp Sunday. Rebels also secured the road between the airport and their main strongholds on the edge of the city center.

The move was another setback for the United Nations, which has 206 peacekeepers at the airport but who now must answer to the rebels.

"It's supposed to be in the neutral zone. It should not belong to one side," said Lt. Col. J.N. Adinkrah of Ghana, commander of the 206-member UN contingent in charge of the airport.

UN officials expect the rebels to

resume their offensive for the capital soon with attacks on the barracks of the presidential guard and the police and on Kigali camp, the main army stronghold in the capital.

Government radio said its troops withdrew to those three locations from the airport and Kanombe camp and were preparing to launch a major counterattack.

A UN official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said government troops appeared demoralized, and it was doubtful they would be capable of launching a major counterattack. (Reuters)

## Major takes nationalistic line for Euro-elections

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister John Major, fearing defeat in European Union parliamentary elections, unveiled a nationalistic right-wing platform yesterday to confront the strongly pro-European opposition parties.

Warning against the creation of a "socialist superstate," Major said rivals Labor — well ahead in opinion polls — and minority Liberal Democrats would sell out British interests.

His pitch was directed at the right of his party and the anti-European faction which has fought him over European unity.

"You will not be voting for Europe — right or wrong. You will be voting for Europe — Right or

Left," Major said in a foreword to the Conservative manifesto for the June 9 poll, the latest test for a party riven by disunity.

But his finance minister undermined a key tenet of European integration, questioning the concept of proposed monetary union by the end of the century.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said he could not see Britain rejoining the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) which all but collapsed last year. Nor did he believe the rest of Europe would follow that path to monetary union (EMU).

"If and when the question of EMU comes on the agenda again I don't believe the route will be via

the ERM," Clarke said.

With the governing party at a post-war low in opinion polls, most Conservatives doubt their party can hold on to many of their 32 European Parliament seats, let alone make gains against Labor and Liberal Democrats.

In the 1989 Euro-elections Labor won 45 seats, the Conservatives 32, the Ulster Unionists one and independent candidates two, and the Scottish nationalists one. In June, British constituencies will increase to 87 from 81.

Major, launching his campaign, all but admitted how hard it will be to get disillusioned voters to back him, saying: "This is not some trivial opinion poll."

The Labor Party too is determined to motivate its supporters to vote despite the death two weeks ago of its leader, John Smith.

Labor is anxious that its agenda for Europe not be overshadowed by wrangling over its leadership and instead wants to focus the debate on Major's weak position.

"The election will inevitably be a referendum on John Major and his government," said Labor acting leader Margaret Beckett, launching the Labor manifesto "Make Europe Work for You."

"We can cast a vote of confidence — or otherwise — in the way we have been governed for the past two years," said Liberal Dem-

ocrat leader Paddy Ashdown, launching his manifesto.

In essence the three major British political parties differ over one key issue on Europe — the social chapter on welfare and working conditions of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

The Conservatives won an opt-out from the chapter arguing it would impose unacceptable costs on employers and the state.

While Major sees the social chapter as the slippery slope to socialism, the other party leaders including Liberal Democrat chief Paddy Ashdown see it as crucial to Britain playing a full role in its most important economic and foreign policy arena.

## Crimean dispute may go to UN

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia and Ukraine might ask the United Nations to help resolve tensions over the Crimea, a spokeswoman for Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said yesterday.

Kozyrev discussed the Crimea on Sunday with visiting British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd in the Arctic port of Murmansk, spokeswoman Galina Sidorova told reporters.

"Ukraine wants the Crimean question to be considered in the UN," she said, according to the Interfax news agency. "Russia has nothing against that, and hopes that Kiev and Simferopol will resolve all their disagreements exclusively by political means."

The prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine also were scheduled to meet in Moscow yesterday to discuss Crimea's status.

Crimea, a peninsula in the Black Sea, has belonged to Ukraine since 1954. But roughly 70 percent of its 2.7 million people are Russians, and its regional parliament in the city of Simferopol voted last week for a constitution the central Ukrainian government views as a step toward secession.

Many of Crimea's residents want to rejoin Russia. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has ruled that out, saying Crimea is an inseparable part of Ukraine.

On Sunday, Crimean and Ukrainian leaders accused each other of stockpiling weapons and preparing to battle for control of the strategic peninsula, home of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

An adviser to Kravchuk warned that Crimea was on the verge of civil war, and the ITAR-Tass news agency said 29 Ukrainian armored personnel carriers had been sent by railway to Simferopol.

Crimea's Interior Ministry reinforced its guard around public facilities, including the regional parliament building and TV center, ITAR-Tass said.

The new Crimean constitution claims the right to confer citizenship, establish armed forces and conduct foreign relations on an equal basis with other states.

Ukraine's national parliament annulled the constitution on Friday and threatened to take additional, unspecified action within 10 days if Crimea's regional lawmakers did not repeal their vote. The Crimeans have refused.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned Kravchuk last week that Moscow opposes the use of force in Crimea.

## Serbs fail to withdraw from Gorazde

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — The failure of Bosnian Serb forces to pull out of the UN safe area of Gorazde has dampened hopes for any ceasefire negotiations, peacekeeping sources said yesterday.

The Bosnian Serb army (BSA) had pledged to honor a ceasefire in Gorazde signed with the United Nations on Saturday and withdraw the remaining 150 soldiers from a three km zone around the east Bosnian town on Sunday.

Their agreement was seen by UN officials as paving the way to talks on a Bosnia-wide ceasefire. Instead, Serb soldiers had strengthened their position north of Gorazde within the exclusion zone, UNPROFOR spokesman Rob Annink said yesterday.

"The BSA in fact did not honor their agreement," he said. "They strengthened their positions due north of the city."

Annink said Serbs had built bunkers and improved their quarters in the area.

But the BSA command said late on Sunday the agreement was void since the Muslim side refused to sign it.

"Although (it) was signed by representatives of the BSA and UNPROFOR, it cannot be implemented since the other side in the

conflict rejected signing it," it said in a statement.

"By failing to sign, the Muslims have once again confirmed they opted for war...and therefore bear the full responsibility for the consequences," it said.

The Muslim-led Bosnian army had not pulled back from a hilltop outside the town, Annink said.

Hailing a three-week offensive a month ago under NATO threat of air strikes, the Serbs had pledged to withdraw infantry three km from the town and remove their big guns from a 20 km exclusion zone around it.

But the United Nations has found Serb mortar pieces in the no-weapons zone and some 150 Serb soldiers have remained in the inner zone on the east side of the river Drina.

The Muslims had made total Serb withdrawal from around Gorazde a precondition for rejoining truce talks.

Bosnian Muslims said the UN lacked credibility as a mediator for peace because it had failed to keep its promises to protect the UN "safe haven" of Gorazde.

"If they weren't able to do something in Gorazde, how can we expect them to do something elsewhere?" Prime Minister Haris

Silajdzic told Sarajevo television on Sunday night. "We don't believe in their credibility."

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said his side would prefer a lasting rather than a temporary truce, a condition that has already put him on a collision course with the Muslims.

Karadzic told the Bosnian Serb news agency: "The Serbs are ready immediately and unconditionally to enter negotiations on a cessation of hostilities, but would rather conclude a lasting and not a temporary peace."

UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi urged Serbs and Muslims to agree to early talks on a ceasefire.

The Bosnian Muslims only want a temporary ceasefire because they fear a permanent truce would freeze Serb war conquests, which amount to more than 70 percent of Bosnia.

The United States, Europe and Russia have called for a four-month ceasefire and new negotiations for an end to the two-year Bosnian war.

Silajdzic left open the possibility that his government would consider a territorial division of Bosnia that would give Muslims and Croats 51 percent of the country and Serbs 49 percent.

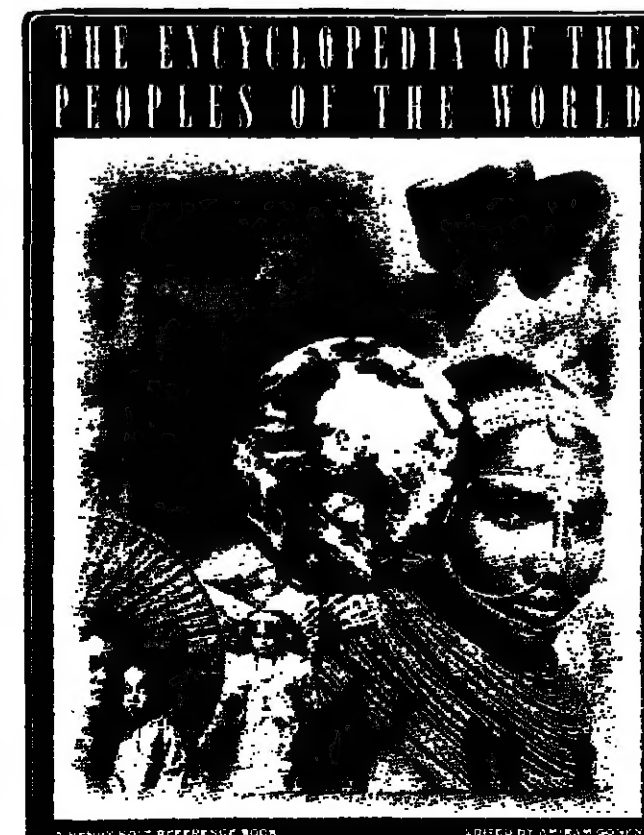


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## A useful, timely operation

IT is all too easy to be suspicious of the government's motives in ordering the abduction of Lebanese terrorist Mustafa Dirani. As the many critics of the action have pointed out, Dirani cannot be a bargaining chip in the Israel-Syria-Iran poker game over the release of air force navigator Ron Arad. Neither the Iranians nor the Syrians can be expected to care enough about a relatively obscure chieftain of a small terrorist organization affiliated with Hizbullah.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin confirmed this. Inasmuch as the apprehension of the far more prominent Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid brought no results, it would be unreasonable to expect the capture of Dirani to precipitate a prisoner exchange.

Nor is the claim that Dirani may possess important information convincing. It is likely that members of his group who yesterday disclaimed any knowledge of Arad's whereabouts are telling the truth. Their organization - "Believers' Resistance" - sold Arad to Iranian-backed "Revolutionary Guards" six years ago. That their chief Dirani knows today where Arad may be is improbable.

It is true, too, that the government has been remiss in not using the negotiations with the PLO to obtain information about Arad and other MIA's. Chances are that Yasser Arafat, who provided Israel with half of MIA Zecharia Baumei's identity tag, knows more

than Dirani about the fate of the missing navigator and soldiers. He has leverage with Teheran and access to Arab and Iranian intelligence. That the government has not been able to get at least some significant information from him in exchange for releasing thousands of Palestinian terrorists is puzzling.

Yet for all the suspicions and complaints about the operation, it was eminently justified. In their eagerness to derive public relations value from the army's spectacular success, government officials focused mostly on the help the operation may provide in obtaining Arad's release. But it would have been enough if they simply reminded the world that the abduction of a ruthless terrorist - who participated in terrorist acts against Israel, illegally held Arad incommunicado for two years, and then sold him as one would a slave - is simply part of an ongoing war against terrorism. The likes of Dirani must always live with the knowledge that sooner or later the long arm of the IDF will reach them.

Even more important, the operation reminded Israel's neighbors of something they tend - perhaps out of wishful thinking - to forget: that for all its democratic openness, which often exposes the shortcomings and failures of its military establishment, Israel has an army whose skills and competence are second to none. Nor will Israel ever hesitate to use it to protect its vital interests.

## Strategic arthritis

THE International Institute for Strategic Studies yesterday published a penetrating analysis of post-Cold War malaise which should provide a welcome jolt to international and UN policy-makers. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the report, *The 1993-94 Strategic Survey*, is that it reveals nothing new, nothing extraordinary, nothing far removed from the common sense of every follower of international affairs.

This means the problem of increasing world disorder is not lack of knowledge or analysis among the policy planners of the major powers. It is a problem of inertia, lack of will, and lack of action to define new policy goals. It is a startling thought that the developed world may just be tired after 55 years of world war and Cold War. The analogy would be an individual's mid-life crisis, a depression over lost ideals and diminished opportunities, a lethargy in defining new goals and making new journeys.

It is true that the developed world of East and West has taken a severe ideological battering in the last 50 years and may well be exhausted. Politicians have never been lower in the public regard, democratic populations are restless and ready to throw out governments as fast as they elect them. The post-Soviet states are confused, disillusioned, and prey to racketeers and ethnic agitators.

The IISS report puts its finger on the mood in saying that the world is immobilized by severe "strategic arthritis" caused by these stubborn global problems and by the inaction of the great powers. It accurately analyzes the

reluctance to forge new goals and warns that East and West could drift into new antagonisms, "mini-replications of the Cold War." Nostalgia for the balance and certainties of the Cold War have been expressed widely on both sides of the former Iron Curtain.

The institute is especially sharp about the attitude of the remaining superpower. IISS director John Chipman said: "America has not been able to find what its attitude is to the use of force in international relations - that, I think, is key. And it hasn't yet been able to find ... what the strategic priorities of the United States are."

He said the United States is asking for "awesome guarantees" for future international action by insisting on "no open-ended commitments, assurance of victory without casualties, and an exit strategy." Of course the American president is asking for these guarantees not from incompetence, but because that is precisely what his electorate now demands. It is easy to say Bill Clinton is failing, because he is not engaged in the conflicts erupting around the globe. It is equally easy to say he is successful, because no American families are losing sons in these pointless tribal wars.

The strongest warning the IISS gives is that Western support for the Bosnian government and Russia's support for the Serbs must not be allowed "to introduce into the Balkans a kind of Cold War struggle." If the post-Soviet world is indeed a bit lost and in need of counseling, this sober and thoughtful report from the IISS is as good a start as any.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SUPPORT FOR PEACE PROCESS

Sir, - Caught between her desire to berate and scold and the reality that she must virtually plead, Susan Hattis Rolef tries to make sense out of the refusal of certain key local Arabs to get involved in the "peace experiment" and shoulder a burden of responsibility (May 9).

The simple fact that seems to have eluded Ms. Hattis Rolef is that the "Gaza/Jericho First" process might very well be a wrong-headed policy. For sure the decision Prime Minister Rabin made to "go to Tunis" was in error. Especially when he found out that his own Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was there ahead of him.

Moreover her backhanded insult of the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu in comparing the skulking of Abdel Shafi, Erakat and Ashrawi and his complaint over the handling of the negotiations was quite unnecessary.

The fact that there are very few supporters of the agreement among the local Arabs indicates in all probability that maybe they know something that we don't, something about the future debate that's in store for all of us.

Shiloh.  
YISRAEL MEDAD

### UNCONSCIONABLE COMPARISON

Sir, - Dan Leon (Letters, May 8) finds fault with the editor's claim that *The Jerusalem Post* is balanced in its op-ed coverage.

How can he equate the Baumei's heart-wrenching plea for information about their son Zecharia, missing in action since 1982, and Ariel Sharon's appeal to the government to insist on the same information, with some of the blatantly partisan articles by Labor spokespersons given promi-

### Susan Hattis Rolef replies:

The basic premises of my position are that:

It is vital for the future of the State of Israel that it start withdrawing from the territories occupied in 1967 and densely populated by Palestinians.

This must be done by means of an agreement with the Palestinians.

The current process is the only game in town, and the Oslo and Cairo agreements, with all their shortcomings, are the best that we, both Israelis and Palestinians, could get.

The political right in Israel has only empty slogans to offer as an alternative to the current process.

The Palestinians who favor the peace process - such as Hussein and Erakat - know that there is no alternative to the current plan, and they shouldn't allow personal pique to blind them.

The "backhanded insult" was not directed at Bibi Netanyahu, but at Hussein and Erakat, both of whom I have had the honor of meeting, and both of whom I hold in higher regard - especially on the intellectual level - than the leader of the Likud.

True, the editorial was condemnatory of Rabin's changing positions. True, the choice of letters on that day were not paeans of praise for Rabin's policies. But to characterize the Baumei's distress as anti-government sentiment in order to support his paranoia on behalf of the Rabin government is cruel and unconscionable.

FAY DICKER

Jerusalem.

### HELLENISTIC VALUES

Sir, - Vulgar illustrations and photos, unfortunately common in cheap Hebrew papers, appear with increasing frequency in your *Time Out* magazine. A recent issue depicted a man and woman gazing into each other's diapers; a full-page back-cover ad for Brazil's profane Bahia ballet (April 15) showed a virtually nude couple dancing together. Many of your readers believe in Jewish traditions of sanctity of sex and family and bodily modesty; such material, reflecting Hellenistic values, art over morality and the *Playboy* "philosophy," sex-as-a-snack, has no place in their homes. *Time Out's* article on homosexual hangouts may help lead innocent borderline youth into a life of morbid perversity (see *Sexual Suicide* by Harvard Prof. G. Gilder).

The Bahia Ballet's sponsor, Mei Eden, claims to give us pure water, with "culture" as a bonus. But their alien culture sullies the pure waters of Israel's soul: so Mei Eden's current TV commercial extols cheap impulsive sex; their current cultural offering (*Time Out*, May 6), Russian liturgical music, is hardly the appropriate *shtetl* for Jewish souls. Our current Tora readings stress that Israel will expel Jews or non-Jews who are sexually corrupt, idolatrous, or overly materialist (not observing the sabbatical year, *shmitta*, currently only rabbinic). Oslo has shown the limits to our human power.

True, it is against your financial interest to publish this letter; but the issues raised greatly affect both Israel's Jewish identity and its continued existence.

YAAKOV FOGELMAN

TOP - Toru Outreach Program

Jerusalem.



## A Palestine fairy tale

STEVEN PLAUT

MANY months had gone by since PLO leader Yasser Arafat had called on Moslems to launch a jihad and drive the Jews violently from Jerusalem.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, it will be recalled, had demanded and received clarification. Arafat had then smiled and explained to the press that he meant a friendly, nonviolent jihad. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had explained that the government was really upset, and that statements like this would upset the peace process.

It was shortly after Nabulus had been transferred to PLO control that Arafat described the Jews as money-grubbing vermin. The PLO headquarters denied that Arafat had made the statement at all. The Gush Shalom movement demanded that Israel not upset the inertia of the peace process with any disproportionate counter-response.

Demonstrations by the peace movement were organized across the land under the banner, "Sticks and stones may an infidels make, but names can never hurt us." The PLO's foreign minister then explained that in the Middle East, with its rich commercial traditions, calling someone money-grubbing really wasn't an insult.

After Jenin was transferred to PLO control, Arafat was quoted as saying that the Jewish Christians should be driven violently out of Bethlehem and Nazareth. Despite doubts expressed by the Foreign Ministry over whether the quote was accurate, the BBC produced expert testimony confirming that it was indeed Arafat's

voice on the tape, which hadn't been subjected to tampering.

This produced an emergency cabinet meeting, in which the Rabin government expressed intense anguish and demanded a public retraction and PLO apology. The Women for Forgiveness congregated outside the Prime Minister's

Then one day, the PLO leader went just a little too far...

Office, with palm branches, olive wreaths and white doves. Arafat sent a fax expressing "regret if his message has caused any misunderstanding."

IT WAS after Ramallah had been transferred to PLO control that Arafat gave a speech to the Palestine Senate in which he described the Jews as agents of Satan and leeches sucking the blood of mankind. The Israeli cabinet adopted a unanimous resolution warning the PLO that the peace process was in danger of being derailed.

When Arafat then denounced the ritual murder of Gentile children by Jews for Passah, Rabin was reported to be so upset as to be in need of medication.

The Vatican urged that time be given for healing and reconcilia-

tion. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak sent a telegram explaining that Arafat had been drinking heavily before uttering this nonsense. President Clinton demanded that Israel keep Arafat's rantings in their proper perspective and let the peace process continue uninterrupted. After all, the alternative was for Hamas to gain momentum.

Things came to a head at last when Arafat gave his annual Presidential State-of-the-Nation speech in East Jerusalem, in the middle of which he expressed understanding for the acts of the Germans and noted that Hitler was a fundamentally decent man with the right attitude toward the Jews. He later clarified his position by explaining that he favored a symbolic and nonviolent Holocaust that would clear the air of animosity and engender coexistence.

The government was finally pushed beyond the breaking point. It was time to play hardball and teach the wily scoundrel a lesson.

Having been left no choice, it announced that Foreign Minister Peres was going to boycott the Palestine Independence Day ceremony and military parade. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Belin would refuse to appear on the same podium with Arafat in Helsinki. And Rabin would definitely not shake Arafat's hand at the Washington peace talks the following week.

The writer teaches business and economics at the University of Haifa.

## Hard facts of aid and trade

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THIRTY years ago the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) convened for the first time. The issues raised at the conference are relevant today as the new Palestinian entity gets off the ground.

The deliberations at the UN meeting were based on the trade-gap theory, according to which one of the developing countries' main problems was their terms of trade with the industrialized world.

These deteriorated constantly, since the price of basic commodities, which constituted a major part of their exports, rose at a much slower rate than the price of manufactured goods, which constituted a major part of their imports.

The conclusion was that external intervention was needed if the developing countries were to stand a chance of embarking on the road to self-sufficiency and economic growth.

UNCTAD soon became a permanent organ of the UN. It proposed various remedies for the developing countries, but these shared the fate of many other well-meaning international efforts and crashed against the hard rocks of reality.

For 30 years, UNCTAD has tried to help these needy countries through trade, while other organizations and agencies have sent direct aid.

According to the British *Economist*, \$1.4 trillion have been poured into the Third World since 1960. No one knows what would have happened had this money been withheld; but it is a fact that many of the recipient countries have failed to achieve sustained growth. Extreme poverty continues to be rampant.

Economists offer many theories for why aid has failed. Some suggest that the projects chosen have been the wrong ones. A few have tried to prove that handouts actually hamper healthy development. Others concentrate on the motives of the donor states, which are far from altruistic.

The incompetence of the recipi-

ent states seems to get least "credit" for the sad situation; perhaps once it is openly admitted that many of these states are incapable of taking proper advantage of economic aid and other forms of assistance, it will be a justification for cutting all but the most rudimentary

A healthy economy for the new Palestinian entity will require a government that can maintain law and order

ry humanitarian aid to most of the poorest countries.

This implies giving up, which only those advocating an approach of "survival of the fittest" are capable of doing with a clear conscience.

IF WE look at developing countries which have managed to achieve sustained economic growth, we usually find that what separates them from the failures is the existence of regimes which wield firm control, are capable of making plans and implementing them, and can maintain law and order.

In other words, the difference

between success and failure doesn't necessarily lie in the nature of the development projects themselves, the motives of the donors and the absence of economic distortions or even corruption in the recipient states.

These lessons are highly relevant for the future economic development of the Palestinian entity which will evolve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Pouring billions of dollars into these areas will not in itself ensure healthy growth. Nor will the implementation of the UNCTAD aid credo.

The first requirement is competent government capable of maintaining law and order and making at least reasonable use of the proffered assistance.

The Palestinians have a higher proportion of intellectuals, professionals and qualified workers than most developing countries. What they lack is experience in running their own affairs.

It isn't fair, at this very early stage of implementation of the Gaza and Jericho plan, to judge the new Palestinian administration.

But as soon as the autonomy council starts functioning, as soon as the new administration becomes more than several hundred men in uniform not quite sure what they're supposed to be doing, we shall begin to see whether the Palestinians are heading in the right direction, in the economic area, and in others.

The writer is editor of the Labor movement's monthly, *Spectrum*.

## POSTSCRIPTS

WHEN 80-YEAR-OLD Harry Olsen limped into an Oslo bank and saw customers cowering on the floor, he headed straight for an armed robber who was leaning over the counter collecting cash.

The partially disabled Olsen took aim with his heavy cane and walloped the gunman so hard on the neck that the bandit dropped his pistol.

"The neck is a weak point," Ol-

sen said later. "The gunman was really dazed by the blow."

The robber, in his early 20s, recovered enough to throw a small sign at Olsen, slightly injuring his ear. But three other customers overpowered the suspect and held him until police arrived.

It was nothing, claimed Olsen, downplaying his heroics. "I'm a tough guy."

## Death threat

GWYNNE DYER

IT is not my habit to issue death threats in this column, nor would this paper publish them. But if Prof. Wolfgang K. Joklik of the Duke University Medical Center, Dr. Bernard Moss, director of the Laboratory of Viral Diseases in Maryland, Prof. Bernard N. Fields of Harvard University Medical School, among other distinguished scientists, turn out to be responsible for the death of any of my kids, I would certainly go as far as to publish their home addresses.

It wouldn't be necessary to do any more than that. If the disaster these scientists have prepared comes to pass, lots of angry and grieving people will want to know those addresses.

Smallpox, n. An acute, highly contagious, febrile disease, caused by a virus, and characterized by a pustular eruption that often leaves permanent pits or scars.

The dictionary makes smallpox sound like an unpleasant disease that most people survive. That used to be true in Europe, Africa and Asia, where people had built up immunity through long exposure. In 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century Europe, for example, smallpox normally killed no more than half a million people a year.

The smallpox virus in a Moscow lab is guarded by two unarmed pensioners

And by the end of the 1970s, thanks to the World Health Organization's global vaccination campaign, almost everybody on earth was immune to smallpox. The virus became extinct in the wild, leaving only laboratory samples for scientists to work on.

There was a calculated risk in preserving even lab samples of smallpox, but at first the research gains were significant and the risks were small. It would be a great nuisance if the smallpox virus got loose again, but everybody had their shots.

Fifteen years later, nobody has had their shots. Immunologically speaking, human populations everywhere in the world are now no better protected from smallpox than the New World tribes of five centuries ago. So why would anybody want to keep the virus samples alive indefinitely? The risk involved is just too high.

Yet the final destruction of smallpox has already been postponed twice. The first time was in 1987, when there was at least the excuse that new gene-mapping techniques would allow researchers to determine the complete genome of the virus. And by the end of last year, the revised deadline for the destruction of smallpox, they had completely sequenced three different strains.

But last year the scientists named above were leading actors in a campaign to postpone the destruction of smallpox yet again on the grounds that there was still more research to be done. Unfortunately, they succeeded.

THE TWO remaining reservoirs of smallpox virus are in American and Russian government labs.

Recently, an enterprising reporter from the *Chicago Tribune*, Howard Witt, actually went to the Research Institute of Viral Preparations in Moscow. It is, in his words, a "decreeit, 1950s-era research institute, situated... next door to a tire-making factory, [that] is more vulnerable to attack than the average Moscow bank." Which is to say, very vulnerable.

No vault protects the virus, just a series of wood and glass doors - and the security guard consists of two pleasant, unarmed pensioners. Witt didn't really give the address, but he... enough information that even I, with my limited foreigner's knowledge of Moscow, could find the place with no trouble.

And if I felt inclined, I could get a visa, fly to Moscow, rent a pistol and steal the virus. I could have it in my possession a week from now.

I'd have to be crazy, of course. Smallpox is so deadly and indiscriminate that you couldn't even use it for terrorist-style blackmail. All you could do is release it, to punish the world for not being nice to you.

So we're all right so long as nobody who wants revenge against the whole human race has the airfare to Moscow. And there can't be more than 50,000 crazies like that in the world.

Howard Witt took a calculated risk in writing his article as explicitly as he did. He wanted an instant response, and that's what there should be. Every government with an embassy in Moscow should demand a proper guard of the smallpox virus at once.

The writer is a London-based freelancer.



# Lloyd Webber: Now seriously folks ...

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THREE years ago British conductor Anthony Inglis posted 350 letters to orchestras all over the world.

He wasn't applying for a position or seeking recommendations. The idea was to approach every orchestra he could think with the idea of doing a symphonic concert devoted to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Yes, that Andrew Lloyd Webber. The composer who changed the face of the musical theater with shows like *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Evita* and, his

newest opus, *Sunset Boulevard*. "I've never done such a thing before," Inglis said, "but I thought it was such a good idea." As result of one of these 350 letters, Inglis is here this week to lead the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, after performing other Lloyd Webber concerts from Hong Kong to Poland, as well as several in Britain.

The concert varies slightly from one orchestra to another, the 35-year-old conductor explains. "It can be altered to suit the local market in any given place. The Israel Philharmonic thought it needed a soloist, for example, so I

brought Fiona O'Neill with me. I've done it before with her and she has sung for Lloyd Webber, so you are getting an authentic performance."

The concert, at 8:30 tomorrow at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium, features several Lloyd Webber songs in the first half while the second half is pure orchestral music, featuring suites from *Phantom* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

"Lloyd Webber didn't orchestrate these suites," Inglis explains, "but he came up with the ideas of what should happen where and in which order. The *Phantom* suite is absolutely brilliant. It is extremely

clever and, technically, it's very very tricky to play. It's as hard as playing the *Rite of Spring*."

Inglis is familiar with Lloyd Webber's music. He has conducted several of the shows and is still the music supervisor of *The Phantom of the Opera* production.

He strongly believes that this music is legitimate classical music material. "Some of it is very clever indeed, and a lot of classical composers would have been proud of it. And the *Phantom Fantasia* [which will be performed in the concert here] is orchestrated in such a way that it is classical music." The *Jesus Christ Superstar*

suite, Inglis adds, though, "is not classical music but it is great fun."

The *Phantom* suite, according to Inglis, "is the next best thing to seeing the musical itself. You can follow the story from the orchestration, to the moment the Phantom loses Christine. It's like listening and watching a piece of great classical program music."

About the actual merit of Lloyd Webber's works, Inglis suggests: "The bottom line is that these shows fill theaters."

"His critics dismiss him as a popular composer. Well, I don't see anything wrong with a popular composer."



The IPO is set to devote an entire evening to the works of the man who changed the face of musical theater.

## Kicking up their heels out of town

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

NOW that it has a real national home, the Virsky Ukrainian National Folk Ballet is spending most of its time on the road.

The dynamic show of Ukrainian folk music and dance is traveling here as part of the Israel Festival. "We perform mostly outside Ukraine, because it is extremely expensive to work at home," explains artistic director Myroslav Vantukh. "For example one flower carnation that adorns a dancer's head costs about 1 million kupons [the recently independent country's new currency]." The average monthly salary in Ukraine is 800,000 kupons.

The performances abroad keep the company going financially. After returning home from their current Egyptian/Israeli tour, the company has planned tours to Mexico, the US and Spain in the next few months. When they do perform at home, Vantukh says, "many are turned away because the theater in Kiev is always full."

Vantukh, who assumed his post after the death of founder Pavlo Virsky in the early 1980s, explains that the daily classical ballet classes dancers take set the Virsky company apart from other folk dance companies.

"We believe in the importance of the dramatic aspect of the dances, but the movement is extremely important as well, which is why we never cease working on the technique," he says. "I believe that the classical ballet technique is part of every movement and without it one loses a lot."

The company comes here with about 150 artists: musicians, dancers and some children, who are members of the company's own school. Two hundred young children study in the school for seven years, before the best move on to the company's studio for two additional years of training. Those who complete their studies at the studio then compete for the company's very few openings.

Vantukh is very proud that for many years, no dancers defected from the company. "We had a very good atmosphere and people like dancing here," he said. Recently, however, some have left to work in the West. He knows that of the many Jews in the company, some may inquire about immigrating here during the tour.

The company has a Jewish dance in the repertoire many years ago, and Vantukh says that he is working on a new one. "We might even surprise the Israeli public with this new dance during the festival but I cannot promise anything yet."

The company is most famous for its rendition of the very acrobatic Cossack dance, the Gopak, which ends each show. But there are also more lyrical numbers, which showcase the vast and varied traditions of the Ukrainian people.

The Virsky Ukrainian National Folk Ballet can be seen Friday through Sunday at Jerusalem's International Convention Center (Binyanei Ha'uma) with further performances at the Caesarea Amphitheater (May 30, 31) and at the Haifa Auditorium (June 2, 4).

## Refreshing rhythms from the ThirdWorld

NEW RELEASES

TRIZAH AGASSI

MUSIC that combats world weariness is a rare blessing. *Hemisphere* (NMC), a series of world music recordings, is a multifold blessing. Each album in the set of six albums now available in Israel features a soulful and invigorating collection from a particular geographic area and/or musical genre. Luckily for the listeners, producer Gerald Segalman has a remarkably discerning ear.

The music, which comes from Brazil, the Andes and various African nations, is full of irresistible love of life, which puts you smack in the middle of a feast for the senses. Though the discs cover a wide variety of very different types of music, the series is united by the sheer strength of the music selected. There is plenty of shallow music to be found in the Third World, but you won't find it here. All the albums are remarkable. But three are irresistible.

*Music of the Andes* is a 17-cut selection of music rooted in the ancient Inca culture, featuring lovely harmonies that were strong enough to survive centuries of attack by the Spanish conquistadors and their spiritual descendants. The sound of its flute and strummed string instruments was popularized by Paul Simon over 20 years ago.

The selection on this album is full of songs that refer to the social and political events that led to their interpreters' exile from countries like Chile.

But there is nothing strident here. Instead, the music, which is recorded with remarkable clarity, feels like a breath of fresh mountain air.

*Brazil Blue* is a collection of many of that country's greatest artists, going back as far as 1957. This overwhelmingly sophisticated music is full of the wide variety of the rhythms for which Brazil is famed.

*Electric and Acoustic Mali* is downright ecstatic. Put this one on first thing in the morning and you are just about guaranteed to have a good day. The root of Malian music is the balafon, a wooden xylophone which, ripples with polyrhythmic delight.

The vocals are also so heart-rendingly keen that you there's no way to avoid seduction. Remarkable electric guitarwork is tossed into the mix, with results that really should not be missed.



Alpha Blondy is one of the African musicians featured on the idealistic album 'Reggae Africa,' the answer to Jamaican romanticization of the mother continent.

Two albums in this set overlap to extent of becoming boring if listened to back-to-back. They are *Patience Dabany* and *Super Guitar Soukous*. Central African Soukous is based on a local thumb piano style, adapted to electric guitar. In the early 1950s, Africans who took up electric instruments were influenced by the Cuban rumba which they heard on the radio. Soukous was born of this, eventually making it into the international consciousness via guitar work on Paul Simon's *Graceland*. It is a wild and energetic musical mix that should completely floor guitar aficionados.

Patience Dabany is the only artist to earn a solo album in this series. Born in the Central African

Republic, not only is she a star vocalist, she is also a master percussionist. Her music is vital and joyous but somehow, an entire album, heard on the heels of the *Super Guitar Soukous*, is likely to be too much for anyone who is not a totally extroverted party animal.

Finally, *Reggae Africa* is Africa's version of "a revolution you can dance to." If you like and/or love reggae, this is likely to be a highlight of the series. For this is the answer to Jamaican romanticization of the mother continent. Though they do not stomp on spiritual/political idealism, these artists from South Africa to the Ivory Coast certainly don't see a return to Africa as a solution to the problems of the world's black people.

## Boston Camerata sheds light on some musical missing links

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE Boston Camerata and its musical director Joel Cohen offered a program that was no ordinary concert, but an evening for the connoisseur; the large audience was a welcome surprise.

The close relationship between the medieval musical forms of the three major monotheistic religions is well-known.

Knowing about all the amazing processes and developments is one thing, but presenting the results in a performance is completely different. The six vocalists and instrumentalists, all playing period instruments, were excellent.

For those unaware of the musical connections between the religions, the performance must have been an extraordinary experience. We are deeply indebted to the Camerata for coming and introducing us to the music.

Henry Crown Hall, Israel Festival Jerusalem, May 21.

Benjamin Bar-Am

DAVID SHALLON, conducting the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in its first festival concert, presented a highly original and extremely promising program.

The first item, the Bach Suite for Orchestra No. 4 was nevertheless a disaster. It was blared with screaming and off-key trumpets, blurred and sluggish strings, and a noisiness the very antithesis of Bach.

With the second item, the Witold Lutoslawski Concerto for Oboe, Harp and Chamber Orchestra, Shallon underwent a metamorphosis, cooperating marvelously with husband-and-wife soloists Hansjoerg Schellenberger, the legendary oboist, and harpist Margit-Anna Sues-Schellenberger, harnessing the instruments effectively.

Schellenberger's playing sings, can be dramatic or lyrical, and has a remarkably high register. The beautiful concerto moves from percussive robustness in the strings to disarming poetical lyricism in the oboe and oboe-cornet.

What surprised no less was the second Bach, the A major Oboe d'Amore Concerto, adapted from a harpsichord concerto. The strings imitated the authentic Baroque instruments.

Their phrases were clearly articulated, and the orchestra played at the proper levels. Schellenberger, now playing the rarely heard oboe d'Amore, again fascinated.

The grand finale was Lutoslawski's 1950s masterpiece, his gigantic Concerto for Orchestra. Conducting by heart, Shallon established full control over the huge orchestra.

He was precise as he coordinated all the layers, sections, instruments, rhythms and motifs. Shallon

also fully grasped the spirit of the concerto, its drama and its overpowering monumentality. Henry Crown Hall, Israel Festival Jerusalem, May 19.

Benjamin Bar-Am

FOUR YOUNG musicians presented their credentials to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a special concert. The three instrumentalists among them were all winners of the 1994 prestigious Francois Shapiro Prize.

The concert was part of the Young Artists' Events series organized by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

We were already acquainted with the music of 34-year-old composer Benjamin Yusopov, an immigrant from Tadzhikistan. His compositions written in his native land were all highly original and extremely promising.

At this concert he introduced a new piece composed here, "Gabriel" for Symphony Orchestra.

Though having an effective middle section, the piece's first and last movements lack substance. Though extremely talented, Yusopov should be warned against doing too many things at one time or taking the quality of his new pieces for granted.

Another, at least partial disappointment was cellist Konstantin Sokolov.

Playing the all-too-familiar, kitschy "Rococo Variations" by Tchaikovsky he failed to demonstrate enough modulation of tone and variety of expression to make the music presentable.

However, having heard him on a previous occasion playing remarkably well one might excuse his weaknesses at this concert as symptoms of an off day.

A real delight was clarinetist Yevgeni Yehudin, who played Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E flat. He already is in full control of tone and technique, and interprets convincingly.

Another success was 26-year-old conductor Yaron Gottfried, whose reading of Dvorak's Symphony No. 7 already showed unmistakable signs of a budding musical personality. Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, May 14.

Benjamin Bar-Am

FOUR chamber music ensembles, in four very different works, appeared in the second concert of the Young Musicians' Group series.

In Brahms's Piano Trio (Op. 87), pianist Shai Vozner, violinist Yael Barolski and cellist Shmuel Shon proved that talented teenagers can be capable of doing full justice to such a demanding work.

They displayed no less understanding, passion, maturity or at-

and Ronen Sumagin (18).

OF THE four works staged at the Suzanne Dellal Theater on May 12 under the banner On the Way to London, the brightest was Sally-Anne Friedland's *Dance for 12 Legs* (music from Schubert). It offered a chance to chuckle at classical ballet.

Six barefoot ballerinas in glittering tiaras and multicolored tunics did what ballerinas do - and a lot more that they don't. Such joyous larks are in short supply these days.

Both Tsvia Brumer's *Orna* and prize winner Sharon Kashi's *Hatul* were recently staged at the Bama Theater (Jerusalem) - the former is emotionally charged, the other looks as if it were set in an asylum.

Rebecca Crown □ Bustan Avraham - Middle Eastern music, 9 p.m. Foyer □ Chamber orchestra, 5 p.m.; Ensemble Minuet - jazz, 11 p.m. (both free) Amphitheater □ Dutch juggler, 5:15 p.m.; magician, 5:45 p.m.; Israeli songs, 7 p.m. (all free) Tent □ Folk music, 8 p.m. Little Theater □ Soprano Susanna Poretsky, 9 p.m. GERARD BEHAR CENTER Leo Modell Hall □ Gog & Magog, 9 p.m. LIBERTY BELL GARDEN □ Circus Oz, 6 p.m.

Tickets are available for most performances: Jerusalem Theater (02) 610011; fax orders (02) 662153.



Today at the festival

JERUSALEM THEATER Henry Crown □ Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, 8 p.m.

## Smaller can be better

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

*Misha's Party* by Richard Nelson and Alexander Gelman. Hebrew, Ido Riklin. Direction, Amir Gosh. Set, Avi Sechi. Costumes, Y. Ben-Ari. Music, Eldad Lidor. Lighting, Hani Vardi. Hebrew title, *Hemeshibe*. Beit Liessin Theater at ZOA House, Tel Aviv.

*The Missing Link* by Yitzhak Meshel. Direction, Howard Rupp. Hebrew title, *Hafshut Hashchil*. At Omseul La'am and centers countrywide.

These two productions are yet another chance to compare what can be achieved by poor, relatively unknown companies with the pretentious attempts of well-endowed, establishment theaters.

In *Misha's Party* a powerful cast gives a blood transfusion to an anemic play. Maron, Peleg, Doron, Mer, Pollak and Zohar are names that radiate star-spangled glamor. Yet once the star dust has settled, all we are left with is a lightweight comedy which is often dull and sometimes downright silly.

Misha (Alex Peleg), a flamboyant Russian Don Juan, is celebrating his birthday in a prestigious Moscow hotel. Enter a dotty American tourist (Hanna Maron) looking for her high-spirited teenage niece, Suzanne, caught up in demonstrations against the attempted coup in 1991.

An intriguing situation? It leads absolutely nowhere, that is until Suzanne, played with verve by Oriy

Perel, appears and puts a stop to the orgies of overeating, overspeaking, hard drinking, eclectic exits and entrances which dominate the action. There's a spirited performance, too, from Tina Tulin as the mercurial Natasha. Pavel Tishin and Shai Kaminsky, two Russian immigrant actors, give the one and only authentic touch to what is a purportedly Russo-American collaboration.

In *The Missing Link*, playwright Yitzhak Meshel and director Howard Rupp - immigrants from the US and Canada, respectively - present Hebrew theater that, for sheer dramatic impact, puts the Beit Liessin stars in the shade. Tender though never saccharine, the play brought this hard-hearted critic to tears, and did so with the minimum of means. Effects, props and costumes were improvised; however, that does not detract from the fact that this is essential theater.

Ruth Geller, Beatrice Hal and Shlomit Cohen - playing three generations of tough, turbulent, typically Israeli women - give splendid performances in the tightly woven, well-directed play. The teenage daughter in a single-parent family overcomes her own distress by volunteering to help a lonely but wise pensioner.

If suitable for teenagers as a social parable, it is sophisticated and humorous enough to captivate their mothers and grandmothers, too.

## Wild, worshipful, and passionate

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

IT'S NOT often that a dance company can be called utterly different. Many are unusual or individual, but the Ballet Bahia of Brazil, directed by Antonio Carlos Cardoso, is truly distinct.

The richly variegated background to two works performed at the Mann Auditorium on May 17 made an immediate impact. The dancing was splendid, but what made the real difference was that the creators had succeeded in melding modern dance influences without losing the power of the throbbing Bahian roots.

The result was visionary, almost hallucinatory: wild yet worshipful in Luis Arrieta's *Sancus*; passionate and mysterious in Guilherme Botelho's *Do Not Go Gently*.

Botelho draws not only on the themes of slaves and invaders, but also introduces snatches from Asian sources - Indian mudra and Japanese gestures are melded with classical and modern movement by the strange music of Alfred Schnittke, which seemed perfectly suited to the theme of crisis.

*Sancus*, a 70-minute episodic paean, had a reverence that the near nudity of the men did nothing to weaken. The music by David Fanshawe was a mixture of choral and cantata, noise and beat. Pageantry played its part, but its drive came from the 26 fantastic performers.

AT THE fifth annual Mia Arborta memorial ballet competition in the Suzanne Dellal Theater (Tel Aviv) on May 14, 10 competitors showed their potential and a half-dozen guests demonstrated their

talents. Three of the candidates were born in Russia, the rest are all native-born.

Among the guest artists, the shining star was Galyana Shkarina (former prime ballerina in Armenia, now of Haifa) who paired up with Armenian guest performer Arman Gregorian.

The winners of the competition were: Avinoam Silverman (17), Shiry Pasternak (20), Eyal Rubin (20), Ella Nagli (14), Noga Harnel (15), Yael Shai (16), Li Arbel (17). Also deserving praise were Dalit Nemirovsky (16), Sveta Gruzovskiy (16), Valery Kaminer (16),

## TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEK CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	8	2	GUERILLA	LIVE
#2	4	6	AVIV GEFEN	III
#3	2	3	TOP POP 1994	VOLUME 3
#4	1	1	ZKONEI TSFAT	NEW
#5	1	1	CRASH TEST DUMMY	HOW SHUFFLED HIS FEET
#6	1	12	MARIAH CAREY	MUSIC BOX
#7	5	14	DAVID BROZA	MASSADA
#8	10	33	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#9	8	3	CRANBERRIES	EVERYTHING ELSE IS
#10	1	5	NICK CAVE	LET LOVE IN
#11	1	5	BJORK	DEBUT
#12	17	9	HIT BOX 1994	VOLUME 4
#13	25	33	ARIK EINSTEIN	COMPILED
#14	20	23	ACHINAM NINI	NINI AND DOR
#15	7	RE	URI FINEMAN	RENEWED LOVE 2

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

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Wednesday "CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM"

June 1 The capital has 137 churches and monasteries, for the many different Christian sects and factions, all very fascinating from a theological viewpoint. We'll visit Ein Karen's Church of the Visitation and the Church of St. John, the Church of John the Baptist, the Monastery of the Cross, the Dormition Abbey and the Augusta Victoria Church. Tour guide - Moll Brog. Price NIS 110

Tuesday "UNDERGROUND JERUSALEM"

June 7 Join archaeologist Aren Maeir on a tour of the hidden city, a place where one does not see the sun, the dark mysterious Jerusalem, hidden underground. Included are visits to a Herodian mansion, the Rabbinic Tunnel (Minaret HaKotel), the Warren Shaft and the Southern Wall excavations. Price NIS 110

Each tour includes transportation from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures, and on the spot explanations.

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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

## Bank of Israel to raise rates again

ONLY two weeks after pushing interest rates up by half a percentage point, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday that on Thursday it will raise rates again by the same amount in response to April's high Consumer Price Index.

The move will bring interest rates on the central bank's daily loans to commercial banks to 11.5 percent, their highest level since October 1993.

Commercial banks wasted no time in reacting to the decision. All five major banks announced yesterday afternoon they would raise rates at which they lend to customers as of Friday.

Bank Leumi's prime rate will rise to 13%, from 12.5%. Israel Discount Bank, First International Bank, United Mizrahi Bank and Bank Hapoalim's prime rates will rise to 12.8%, from 12.3%.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel justified the rise on the recent jump in consumer prices which has pushed up inflation to

## Commercial banks follow suit with interest hike

JOSE ROSENFELD and NEIL COHEN



Frenkel: Increase is justified due to recent jump in inflation rate. (Isaac Harari)

an annual rate of 13.5% since the beginning of the year. He added that inflation has risen faster than everyone's expectations.

The central bank noted that current inflation is deviating significantly from the government's inflation goal of 8% for the year. Moreover, some elements of the money supply are expanding which tends to indicate inflationary pressures.

The central bank emphasized its tight monetary policy will not be enough to squelch inflation. It called on the government to implement policies that help increase the supply of housing, thereby moderating runaway apartment prices which have fanned inflation.

Additionally, the central bank exhorted the government to maintain a wage policy and price rises on controlled goods.

On Thursday, the Bank of Israel will cut five quotas of NIS 215

million each for credit it provides commercial banks at interest levels of 10.3% to 10.7%, bringing up the interest floor by 0.5% to 10.8%.

At the same time, it will raise the interest it pays banks for their reserve deposits to 10.3%, up from 9.8%.

Treasury Director-General Aharon Fogel criticized the Bank of Israel, saying the rate hike was unnecessary. He expressed hope that the bank's monetary policy will not undermine the government's economic growth goals and efforts to lower inflation.

Moreover, he expects the Bank of Israel to correct interest rates downward at the same speed it has pushed them up.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper attacked the central bank's move, terming the decision "saddening and unfortunate." He said it will have negative consequences on the

economy and on exports.

Propper called on the bank to change immediately the "crawling peg" exchange rate system to speed up the shekel's devaluation rate. The current devaluation rate assumes an annual inflation rate of 8%. Should prices continue rising at a faster pace, the shekel will become overvalued, making exports more expensive and imports cheaper, thereby hurting local industries.

Economists rejected Propper's suggestion saying such a change would help fuel inflation.

The Bank of Israel also announced it will make available next month five weekly tenders of NIS 6 billion. It will continue offering weekly tenders of NIS 450m. to the public for credit over a four-week period.

Yesterday, interest on the weekly tender to the public dropped to 11.12% compared with 11.21% last week. Including commercial bank transaction fees, the rate rose to 13.54% compared with 13.13% last week.

## Mizrahi 1st quarter profits drop 16.5%

NEIL COHEN

UNITED Mizrahi Bank yesterday reported a 16.5 percent drop in unaudited first quarter profits to NIS 30.6 million, from NIS 36.6m. in the same period in 1993.

The bank attributed the results to lower capital market activity, greater investment in expanding its branch network and a high tax charge.

Annualized return on equity fell to 11.4% compared with 15.8% in the same period last year and 14.1% for all of 1993.

In March, managing director David Blumberg had warned it would be difficult to maintain the record level of profitability achieved last year.

Profits from financing activities fell by 0.4% to NIS 144.39m., from NIS 144.92m., as increased lending did not compensate for lower financial margins.

Credit outstanding at March 31, 1994 stood at NIS 20.7 billion.

However, provisions for doubtful debts fell to NIS 8.1m., from NIS 14.8m. Commission and other income rose marginally to NIS 125.6m., from NIS 122.1m. despite losses on securities trading. Total expenses rose 8.4% to NIS 174.5m., from NIS 160.9m.

At March 31, shareholders equity stood at NIS 1.117b. compared with NIS 1.117b. three months earlier. The ratio of equity to risk assets was 10.33% compared with 10.58% at the end of December.

Mizrahi's results were not helped by a loss in international operations. Mizrahi International Holdings B.V., the 94%-owned Dutch company through which UMB owns its US and Swiss subsidiaries, reported an inflation accounting-adjusted loss of NIS 4.8m. compared with a profit of NIS 900,000 in the first quarter of 1993.

## Sandoz agrees to buy Gerber

NEW YORK (AP) — The Swiss pharmaceuticals and chemicals conglomerate Sandoz Ltd. has agreed to buy the US baby foods maker Gerber Products Co. for \$3.7 billion in cash, the companies announced yesterday.

The deal would enable Michigan-based Gerber to expand internationally much faster than it could on its own, while Sandoz would get a North American building block for its global nutrition business.

The Swiss company, based in Basel, said it will offer \$53 a share in cash for all Gerber shares. That is a 53 percent

premium over its closing price Friday of \$34.62½ a share in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

It said it plans to begin its tender offer for Gerber shares on or before Friday, and expects to complete the deal within three to six months.

Gerber Products, based in Fremont, Mich., is a \$1.2b. developer, producer and marketer of baby foods and baby care products.

Sandoz, which had \$10.3b. in revenue last year, has interests in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, nutrition, seeds and the construction business.

## Avner reduces losses in 1993

RACHEL NEIMAN

AVNER said yesterday that it will be forced to reexamine its activities if there are no new developments in the insurance compensation law by the end of the year.

The announcement comes after the group, which administers compulsory car insurance for all drivers, reported a reduced 1993 net loss of NIS 269.9 million compared with a net loss of NIS 386.7m. in 1992.

"We have some good news and some bad news," chairman of the board Chaim Stoessel said.

The good news was the improvement in the annual deficit. The bad news, he said, was directly related to the government's failure to pass car insurance reforms proposed by the Berenson Committee.

Even if the proposed reforms are passed shortly, however, they will not affect this year's results, he added.

The group's 1993 premiums were NIS 926m. compared with NIS 816m. in 1992.

Stoessel said that last year's 23 percent rate increase been effective at the year's outset, and not in September, the company would have suffered only a NIS 140m. loss.

He said estimated claims at the end of 1993 totaled NIS 4.6 billion. Taking into account last year's rate hike, the increase in the number of cars purchased over the last two years and improved premium collection procedures, revenues from compulsory insurance premiums rose to NIS 1.64b. compared with NIS 1.47b. in 1992.

The company's balance sheet rose by 7.8% to NIS 2.4b. in 1993, while investments rose by 16.4% to NIS 2.06b., from NIS 1.77b. in the previous year.

One of the main points of the proposed reforms is a lump sum payment compensating for people with handicaps of up to 10%, according to age and income. This would slightly lower overall payments and simplify the payment process.

Other proposals include the redefinition of income as taxable income and the requirement to report all accidents to the police.

Avner's chairman of the board, Uzi Abel, said the group expects the reforms to pass and significantly improve its performance.

The drop in the TASE did not affect the company, which has few stock investments. However, the firm's bond holdings dropped last year.

Investments for this year's first quarter were 9% higher at NIS 2.233 billion compared with NIS 2.1b. in the fourth quarter of 1993.

## Court doesn't decide on Clal Aviation petition

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday decided not to decide on a petition by Clal Aviation that asked for the right to operate two charter flights a week between Tel Aviv and Moscow.

Clal charged that Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar's refusal to allow the flights was an infringement on its freedom of occupation and a violation of the government's policy of encouraging charters.

In response, the State said that while it was encouraging charter flights in general, the Tel Aviv-Moscow route was not busy enough to accommodate competition with El Al's regularly scheduled flights.

"We weighed the arguments of both sides, but we couldn't come to a clear decision," wrote Justices Aharon Barak, Michael Cheshin and Yitzhak Zamir in their ruling.

One of the problems, they said, was that the Civil Aviation Administration had failed to explain its reasons for refusing Clal's request in a letter to the company. Therefore, the court could not evaluate the validity of these reasons.

The court ordered the CAA to reconsider Clal's request "with an open mind," and then give the company an explicitly reasoned decision by June 10.

If Clal is still dissatisfied with the result, it could then file another petition.

## Manufacturers Assn. signs pact with French group

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Confederation of French Industries and Services (CNPF) and the Manufacturers Association signed a joint statement of cooperation yesterday.

The CNPF represents 1.5 million French companies. The group hopes to interest member firms to conduct business with Israel and make the local market a part of their international strategy.

The agreement concentrates on mutual investment, promotion and economic relations between the two countries. One aspect of the accord is the granting of mutual assistance to visiting businesspeople from each country.

Currently, France is Israel's eighth most active trading partner, however, CNPF President Francois Perigot sees no reason why his coun-

try should not be among the top three.

"Israel is part of the four fastest developing nations, which also includes China, South Korea and Singapore," he said.

The peace process was listed among a number of reasons for the delegation's visit. Additionally, Perigot noted there is a new attitude among prominent Arab businessmen to view the boycott as anachronistic.

During its visit, the delegation will meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, Industry Trade and Minister Micha Harish, Energy Minister Moshe Shalal as well as representatives of local companies. The group will also meet members of the Palestinian business community.

Perigot said he has no illusions as to the limits of his organization's influence, but added that timing the visit to coincide with a great moment in history gives it added weight.

According to Perigot, potential areas for cooperation between the two countries include infrastructure, telecommunications, energy, tourism and scientific and technological research.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper said that while France could provide Israel with a gateway to North African markets, the agreement's focus is Europe. He added that Europe should grant the Palestinian autonomous areas preferential treatment in the agricultural sector for the next few years by buying excess produce which Israel is unable to absorb.

## Migdal reports 52% drop in first quarter profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

The Migdal group reported a 52 percent drop in first quarter profits to NIS 7.1 million compared with NIS 15m. in the same period in 1993.

Managing Director Uzi Levy said the group showed considerable improvement in the general and life insurance sectors.

The company's portfolio had a loss of NIS 30.6m. compared with a gain of NIS 9.5m. in the first quarter of last year. Revenues on life insurance rose 44.3% to NIS 35.5m., from NIS 24.6m.

Clal Retail, a subsidiary of Clal Trading, announced a first quarter net loss of NIS 1.6m. compared with a net loss of NIS 588,000 in the same period in 1993.

Revenues more than doubled to

NIS 28.9m., from NIS 12.5m. Per share losses were NIS 14.6 compared with NIS 5.8. Cost of sales rose to NIS 25.3m., from NIS 8.6m. in the same period last year.

The company operates the Piza Hut, KFC and Clal-Pharm chains, holds 30% of Clal's 50% share in Hypershuk as well as 40% of the Buy-and-Build chain. The company said rapid chain expansion and the termination of its leasing business has led to a difficult period of transition.

Clal Insurance Holdings report-

ed an 88% drop in net profits to NIS 1.6m., from NIS 13.8m. in the same period last year.

The company showed a NIS 29m. loss on investments compared with revenues of NIS 363,000.

The company is made up of four insurance firms - Ararat, Clal Insurance, Arieh and Eitan.

Property and Building, part of IDB's group, reported a 28% rise in net profits last year to NIS 35m., from NIS 27.2m. in 1992.

The company reported reve-

nues of NIS 134.8m. compared with NIS 48.8m. in the previous year. It attributed most of the increase to revenues on apartments, shops and land.

Earnings per share were up at NIS 9.9 compared with NIS 7.7. reported at the end of 1992.

Saufrost reported a 67% decline in first quarter net profits to NIS 183,000 compared with NIS 557,000 in the same period in 1993.

Profit margins were 2% higher at 25% compared with 23% last year.

Revenues rose by 54% to NIS 46.3m., from NIS 30m. Local sales rose by 17% to NIS 30.8m., from NIS 26.2m. while exports declined to NIS 5.5m. compared with NIS 6.1m.

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## 95% of Naptha's warrants exercised

JOSE ROSENFELD

OVER 95 percent of the first series of Naptha warrants were exercised as of Sunday night as part of the company's first stage of privatization, the Treasury reported yesterday.

As a result, government holdings in the firm were diluted to 44%, making Naptha a mixed company, not state-owned.

Government Companies Authority Managing Director Yossi Nitzani said he was satisfied that most of the options were exercised despite the stock market's recent weakness and sharp fluctuations of Naptha shares.

The second series of options are to be exercised by November. If they are all exercised, the government's share in the company will drop to 27%.

The government's remaining holdings will revert to private investors when convertible Barkan bonds are exercised.

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## Bezek to propose major decrease in cellular phone costs

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK plans to reduce significantly the cost of cellular phone use to compete with Cellcom, which plans to offer a "basket" of cellular phone services at less than a fifth of Bezek's current rates.

Bezek Managing Director Yitzhak Kaul will soon propose to the firm's board of directors a major reduction in cellular phone rates.

During a seminar on the liberalization in telecommunications yesterday, he said that Cellcom - which recently won the Communications Ministry tender for providing cellular phone service - is able to offer low prices due to the presence of BellSouth, an international telecommunications giant.

According to Kaul, the company, which formed a consortium with the Saffra Brothers and Discount Investments, "is under no Communications Ministry supervision and not prohibited from us-

ing cross-subsidization to reduce its prices."

He said the consortium intends to "dump" its products and services on the local market, charging less than their real value to move into the field.

Because of these new circumstances, real competition, such as the elimination of price controls and the replacement of ministry supervision with a US- or European-style apolitical "regulator," must be instituted, he added.

Kaul said Bezek's monopoly status in infrastructure was a burden. The firm intends to reduce international dialing rates by some 40 percent. Until now, international rates have helped keep local call rates down by cross-subsidization.

The government also must carry out privatization and reduce control of Bezek shares to less than 50%, Kaul said.

## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patch (foreign currency deposit rates) (23.5.94)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.750	4.125	4.625
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.500	3.750	4.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.125	4.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.075	2.075	2.075
Yen (10 million yen)	0.500	0.500	0.500

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (23.5.94)

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Bank of Israel
U.S. dollar	2.250	2.280	2.275
German mark	1.813	1.838	1.825
French franc	4.506	4.571	4.538
Japanese yen (100)	0.5314	0.5388	0.5351
Dutch florin	2.808	2.822	2.815
Swiss franc	1.6134	1.6412	1.6273
Swedish krona	2.1249	2.1498	2.1373
Norwegian krone	0.3903	0.3968	0.3935
Denmark kroner	0.4198	0.4259	0.4228
Finland mark	0.4641	0.4708	0.4674
Canadian dollar	0.6502	0.6580	0.6541
Australian dollar	2.1856	2.2160	2.2008
S. African rand	0.1818	0.1872	0.1845
Belgian franc (10)	0.0830	0.0846	0.0838
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5812	2.6178	2.5995
Italian lira (1000)	1.8081	1.8127	1.8104
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—
Irish punt	3.4556	3.5448	3.5002
Spanish peseta (100)	4.4368	4.4934	4.4651
	2.2034	2.2344	2.2189

\* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



Key Representative Rates		
	Change	
US dollar NIS 3.0070	-0.20%	
Sterling NIS 4.5395	-0.26%	
Mark NIS 1.8286	+0.56%	

New York market indexes		
	Change	
DJ Industrial	+1.21	
DJ Transport	+1.21	
DJ Utility	+1.21	
DJ Average	+1.21	
DJ 100	+1.21	
DJ 200	+1.21	
DJ 300	+1.21	
DJ 400	+1.21	
DJ 500	+1.21	
DJ 600	+1.21	
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DJ 4800	+1.21	
DJ 4900	+1.21	
DJ 5000	+1.21	
DJ 5100	+1.21	
DJ 5200	+1.21	
DJ 5300	+1.21	
DJ 5400	+1.21	
DJ 5500	+1.21	
DJ 5600	+1.21	
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DJ 6000	+1.21	
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DJ 6200	+1.21	
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DJ 6400	+1.21	
DJ 6500	+1.21	
DJ 6600	+1.21	
DJ 6700	+1.21	
DJ 6800	+1.21	
DJ 6900	+1.21	
DJ 7000	+1.21	
DJ 7100	+1.21	
DJ 7200	+1.21	
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DJ 7400	+1.21	
DJ 7500	+1.21	
DJ 7600	+1.21	
DJ 7700	+1.21	
DJ 7800	+1.21	
DJ 7900	+1.21	
DJ 8000	+1.21	
DJ 8100	+1.21	
DJ 8200	+1.21	
DJ 8300	+1.21	
DJ 8400	+1.21	
DJ 8500	+1.21	
DJ 8600	+1.21	
DJ 8700	+1.21	
DJ 8800	+1.21	
DJ 8900	+1.21	
DJ 9000	+1.21	
DJ 9100	+1.21	
DJ 9200	+1.21	
DJ 9300	+1.21	
DJ 9400	+1.21	
DJ 9500	+1.21	
DJ 9600	+1.21	
DJ 9700	+1.21	
DJ 9800	+1.21	
DJ 9900	+1.21	
DJ 10000	+1.21	

Unchanged Advances Declines		
	Change	
Advances	100	
Declines	100	
Unchanged	100	
Volume up (in 1000s)	100	
Volume down (in 1000s)	100	
Volume flat (in 1000s)	100	

Other stock market indexes		
	Change	
FTSE 100	+1.21	
FTSE 200	+1.21	
FTSE 300	+1.21	
FTSE 400	+1.21	
FTSE 500	+1.21	
FTSE 600	+1.21	
FTSE 700	+1.21	
FTSE 800	+1.21	
FTSE 900	+1.21	
FTSE 1000	+1.21	
FTSE 1100	+1.21	
FTSE 1200	+1.21	
FTSE 1300	+1.21	
FTSE 1400	+1.21	
FTSE 1500	+1.21	
FTSE 1600	+1.21	
FTSE 1700	+1.21	
FTSE 1800	+1.21	
FTSE 1900	+1.21	
FTSE 2000	+1.21	
FTSE 2100	+1.21	
FTSE 2200	+1.21	
FTSE 2300	+1.21	
FTSE 2400	+1.21	
FTSE 2500	+1.21	
FTSE 2600	+1.21	
FTSE 2700	+1.21	
FTSE 2800	+1.21	
FTSE 2900	+1.21	
FTSE 3000	+1.21	
FTSE 3100	+1.21	
FTSE 3200	+1.21	
FTSE 3300	+1.21	
FTSE 3400	+1.21	
FTSE 3500	+1.21	
FTSE 3600	+1.21	
FTSE 3700	+1.21	
FTSE 3800	+1.21	
FTSE 3900	+1.21	
FTSE 4000	+1.21	
FTSE 4100	+1.21	
FTSE 4200	+1.21	
FTSE 4300	+1.21	
FTSE 4400	+1.21	
FTSE 4500	+1.21	
FTSE 4600	+1.21	
FTSE 4700	+1.21	
FTSE 4800	+1.21	
FTSE 4900	+1.21	
FTSE 5000	+1.21	
FTSE 5100	+1.21	
FTSE 5200	+1.21	
FTSE 5300	+1.21	
FTSE 5400	+1.21	
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FTSE 7500	+1.21	
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FTSE 7900	+1.21	
FTSE 8000	+1.21	
FTSE 8100	+1.21	
FTSE 8200	+1.21	
FTSE 8300	+1.21	
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FTSE 9400	+1.21	
FTSE 9500	+1.21	
FTSE 9600	+1.21	
FTSE 9700	+1.21	
FTSE 9800	+1.21	
FTSE 9900	+1.21	
FTSE 10000	+1.21	

Israel stocks in NY		
	Change	
Amir	+1.21	
Amir A	+1.21	
Amir B	+1.21	
Amir C	+1.21	
Amir D	+1.21	
Amir E	+1.21	
Amir F	+1.21	
Amir G	+1.21	
Amir H	+1.21	
Amir I	+1.21	
Amir J	+1.21	
Amir K	+1.21	
Amir L	+1.21	
Amir M	+1.21	
Amir N	+1.21	
Amir O	+1.21	
Amir P	+1.21	
Amir Q	+1.21	
Amir R	+1.21	
Amir S	+1.21	
Amir T	+1.21	
Amir U	+1.21	
Amir V	+1.21	
Amir W	+1.21	
Amir X	+1.21	
Amir Y	+1.21	
Amir Z	+1.21	
Amir AA	+1.21	
Amir AB	+1.21	
Amir AC	+1.21	
Amir AD	+1.21	
Amir AE	+1.21	
Amir AF	+1.21	
Amir AG	+1.21	
Amir AH	+1.21	
Amir AI	+1.21	
Amir AJ	+1.21	
Amir AK	+1.21	
Amir AL	+1.21	
Amir AM	+1.21	
Amir AN	+1.21	
Amir AO	+1.21	
Amir AP	+1.21	
Amir AQ	+1.21	
Amir AR	+1.21	
Amir AS	+1.21	
Amir AT	+1.21	
Amir AU	+1.21	
Amir AV	+1.21	
Amir AW	+1.21	
Amir AX	+1.21	
Amir AY	+1.21	
Amir AZ	+1.21	
Amir BA	+1.21	
Amir BB	+1.21	
Amir BC	+1.21	
Amir BD	+1.21	
Amir BE	+1.21	
Amir BF	+1.21	
Amir BG	+1.21	
Amir BH	+1.21	
Amir BI	+1.21	
Amir BJ	+1.21	
Amir BK	+1.21	
Amir BL	+1.21	
Amir BM	+1.21	
Amir BN	+1.21	
Amir BO	+1.21	
Amir BP	+1.21	
Amir BQ	+1.21	
Amir BR	+1.21	
Amir BS	+1.21	
Amir BT	+1.21	
Amir BU	+1.21	
Amir BV	+1.21	
Amir BW	+1.21	
Amir BX	+1.21	
Amir BY	+1.21	
Amir BZ	+1.21	
Amir CA	+1.21	
Amir CB	+1.21	
Amir CC	+1.21	
Amir CD	+1.21	
Amir CE	+1.21	
Amir CF	+1.21	
Amir CG	+1.21	
Amir CH	+1.21	
Amir CI	+1.21	
Amir CJ	+1.21	
Amir CK	+1.21	
Amir CL	+1.21	
Amir CM	+1.21	
Amir CN	+1.21	
Amir CO	+1.21	
Amir CP	+1.21	
Amir CQ	+1.21	
Amir CR	+1.21	
Amir CS	+1.21	
Amir CT	+1.21	
Amir CU	+1.21	
Amir CV	+1.21	
Amir CW	+1.21	
Amir CX	+1.21	
Amir CY	+1.21	
Amir CZ	+1.21	
Amir DA	+1.21	
Amir DB	+1.21	
Amir DC	+1.21	
Amir DD	+1.21	
Amir DE	+1.21	
Amir DF	+1.21	
Amir DG	+1.21	
Amir DH	+1.21	
Amir DI	+1.21	
Amir DJ	+1.21	
Amir DK	+1.21	
Amir DL	+1.21	
Amir DM	+1.21	
Amir DN	+1.21	
Amir DO	+1.21	
Amir DP	+1.21	
Amir DQ	+1.21	
Amir DR	+1.21	
Amir DS	+1.21	
Amir DT	+1.21	
Amir DU	+1.21	
Amir DV	+1.21	
Amir DW	+1.21	
Amir DX	+1.21	
Amir DY	+1.21	
Amir DZ	+1.21	
Amir EA	+1.21	
Amir EB	+1.21	
Amir EC	+1.21	
Amir ED	+1.21	
Amir EE	+1.21	
Amir EF	+1.21	
Amir EG	+1.21	
Amir EH	+1.21	
Amir EI	+1.21	
Amir EJ	+1.21	
Amir EK	+1.21	
Amir EL	+1.21	
Amir EM	+1.21	
Amir EN	+1.21	
Amir EO	+1.21	
Amir EP	+1.21	
Amir EQ	+1.21	
Amir ER	+1.21	
Amir ES	+1.21	
Amir ET	+1.21	
Amir EU	+1.21	
Amir EV	+1.21	
Amir EW	+1.21	
Amir EX	+1.21	
Amir EY	+1.21	
Amir EZ	+1.21	
Amir FA	+1.21	
Amir FB	+1.21	
Amir FC	+1.21	
Amir FD	+1.21	
Amir FE	+1.21	
Amir FF	+1.21	
Amir FG	+1.21	
Amir FH	+1.21	
Amir FI	+1.21	
Amir FJ	+1.21	
Amir FK	+1.21	
Amir FL	+1.21	
Amir FM	+1.21	
Amir FN	+1.21	
Amir FO	+1.21	
Amir FP	+1.21	
Amir FQ	+1.21	
Amir FR	+1.21	
Amir FS	+1.21	
Amir FT	+1.21	
Amir FU	+1.21	
Amir FV	+1.21	
Amir FW	+1.21	
Amir FX	+1.21	
Amir FY	+1.21	
Amir FZ	+1.21	
Amir GA	+1.21	
Amir GB	+1.21	
Amir GC	+1.21	
Amir GD	+1.21	
Amir GE	+1.21	
Amir GF	+1.21	
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**NEW YORK (AP)** — Every team has its nemesis. For the Detroit Pistons, it was the Boston Celtics. For the Chicago Bulls, it was the Pistons. For the New York Knicks, it was the Bulls.

The Pistons and Bulls got past their adversaries and moved on to bigger things. Now, it may be the Knicks' turn.

New York's previous three seasons, and four of the past five, ended in elimination at the hands of Chicago, which struggled similarly against Detroit before going on to three straight NBA titles.

New York finally broke the Bulls by winning Game 7 of their

## Knicks end Bulls' bid for 4th straight

Eastern Conference semifinals 87-77 Sunday. The Knicks' next opponent is Indiana, which lost all four meetings with New York this season and was eliminated by the Knicks a year ago.

Is this another pattern developing?

Are the Pacers, who travel to New York for the opener of the conference finals tonight, inheriting the role of patsy played so well by the Knicks against the Bulls?

Coach Pat Riley says his team, which still has two more series to play before it can be called a champion, hasn't accomplished anything yet and can't presume to accept the role of favorite.

"The Pacers have won 15 of 17 games and have been dominant from an offensive standpoint," he said. "We have so much more work ahead of us."

"Winning all four games against them goes out the window in the playoffs," Knicks center Patrick Ewing said. "We showed that in the New Jersey series after they won four of five against us."

Ewing, with 18 points and 17 rebounds after a scoreless first half, and Charles Oakley, with 17 points and 20 rebounds, proved to be too much inside for the Bulls. Chicago executed its offense perfectly during most of the series, but in Game 7, the Bulls' attack

skidded to a halt.

"It's been a great rivalry, born of competition," Riley said. "I have great respect for what they have done and the way they play."

### Playoffs on Cable TV

Game 1 of the Houston-Utah Western Conference final will be televised tonight at 10:30 on Sports Channel 5 (tentative).

We play a different style, and our style won on our home court in the seventh game.

Home court certainly was a deciding factor in the series, with all seven games won by the home team. The last '88 NBA seventh

## Bucks draw No. 1 draft choice

SECAUCUS, NJ (AP) — The Milwaukee Bucks won the right to pick first in next month's NBA draft, and coach Mike Dunleavy said Sunday the team likely will choose Glenn Robinson of Purdue.

"Glenn Robinson is the front-runner, but we'll also bring in the other players — Grant Hill (Duke) and Jason Kidd (California) — that are mentioned in the top three," he said. "It's necessary, with the money these players are paid today, to interview them extensively and see what kind of people they are."

The Bucks drew the No. 1 choice under a lottery system that was modified after the Orlando Magic won the top pick last year despite having the best record of any of the non-playoff teams.

Under the new system, teams with poorer records had better odds of getting the first selection. The Bucks (20-62) had a 1 in 6 chance.

"I don't know if this system is better or not," Dallas Mavericks' representative Ronnie Carter said. "All I know is we're going to get a good player."

The lottery change produced a draft order in which only one team, Milwaukee, will not choose in reverse order of its finish.

The Mavericks, who were 13-69 for the worst re-

cord in the league, had a 1 in 4 chance but ended up second.

The Detroit Pistons, with the virtually same odds of winning the lottery as the Bucks, wound up third. Minnesota is fourth, Washington fifth, followed by Philadelphia, the Los Angeles Clippers, Sacramento, Boston, the Los Angeles Lakers and Seattle, which gets Charlotte's pick.

There is one possible roadblock to the Bucks choosing first when the draft is held June 29 at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis.

The collective bargaining agreement with the Players' Association expires after this season, and the union reportedly is mulling whether to go to court to challenge the legality of the draft. Players Association president Charles Grantham has stated publicly that the union wants the draft abolished, but it is uncertain whether he'll go to court to block it.

The union has sued to abolish the draft twice before. Each time, a settlement was reached.

"It wouldn't surprise me if they did (again)," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Litigation seems to go hand in glove historically when the collective bargaining agreement expires."

## Navratilova upset; Graf, Sampras win

PARIS (AP) — Back for a farewell French Open after five years away, Martina Navratilova was ousted yesterday in a shocking first-round upset by Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands.

Oremans, a 21-year-old with only one victory in eight previous events this year, had more energy and fewer errors in winning 6-4, 6-4. The fourth-seeded Navratilova, 37, hadn't lost in the first round of a Grand Slam since the US Open in 1976.

After match point, she slammed her racket into a chair on the sideline, smashing the frame. "At that point I was too disappointed to care about anything," Navratilova said. "I've never done that before. I hope I never do it again. I was too sad to care at the moment."

In contrast to Navratilova, top seeds Steffi Graf and Pete Sampras were easy winners.

Sampras, seeking to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win four consecutive Grand Slam events, overpowered 109th-ranked Alberto Costa of Spain, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Graf took the first step toward a fifth straight Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Katarina Stenikova.

Navratilova, who said this is her last French Open, had reached at least the fourth round in her 11 previous appearances. She won the title twice, was runner-up four times and before Monday had a 52-9 record in the event.

Graf's triumph was never in doubt on a bright, breezy morning. But Stenikova, a 21-year-old Slovak ranked only 100th, broke service twice in the first set and kept the defending champion on court for 57 minutes — longer

than usual for a Graf first-round match.

Graf, who has won the French Open three times, is seeking to match the five consecutive Grand Slams she won in 1988-89. Margaret Court won six in a row in 1969-71 and Navratilova did the same in 1983-84.

To equal Court and Navratilova, Graf would have to stay at peak level through the end of Wimbledon in July.

Sampras never has reached the semifinals in four previous appearances at Roland Garros stadium. Clay has always been his shakiest surface, yet he is favored to win a title that would assure his place among the all-time greats.

Since Laver, no other man has won all four Grand Slam tournaments even non-consecutively. For Sampras, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, the French Open is the one missing title.

Becker never even showed up for his Center Court match against Jonathan Stark of the United States. Minutes before the start, the 10th-seeded German withdrew because of a pulled back muscle.

Among the men's seeds advancing were No. 4 Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 over Australian Wally Masur; No. 11 Thomas Muster of Austria, 6-0, 7-5, 6-1 over Andrei Cherkasov of Russia; and No. 16 Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, 6-1, 7-5, 7-5 over Karl Novacek of the Czech Republic.

Two-time finalist Andre Agassi, unseeded in a Grand Slam for the first time since the 1987 US Open, beat three-time champion Mats Wilander, 6-2, 7-5, 6-1.



**FULL THROTTLE** — Unseeded Andre Agassi returns a backhand to Mats Wilander whom he beat in straight sets in yesterday's first-round French Open action.

Aside from Navratilova, the only women's seed to lose was No. 13 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, who fell to Romania's Ruxan-

dra Dragomir, 6-3, 7-5. Winners included No. 12 Mary Pierce of France and No. 16 Sabine Hack of Germany.

## Lara hits 5th straight century

LONDON (Reuters) — The unstoppable Brian Lara smashed his fifth successive first-class century as Warwickshire won a race against the clock to beat Somerset in the county championship yesterday.

In the process, the West Indian also hit the fastest century of the season, needing just 72 balls. He scored 136 from 94 deliveries with 14 fives and two sixes before being bowled by leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

There were 20 balls remaining.

when Warwickshire achieved their victory target of 321 off 53.4 overs for the loss of four wickets.

Lara's innings continued a remarkable sequence which began with his world record test score of 375 against England and continued with scores of 147, 106 and 120 not out for Warwickshire.

He needs one more century to join the illustrious company of three players who have scored six in successive first-class innings — Australia's Donald Bradman, C.B. Fry of England and Mike Procter who was playing for the then Rhodesia.

In Sunday's action, Martin Bicknell's best bowling performance was wasted as rain thwarted Surrey's bid to maintain their 100 percent League record at The Oval.

After Bicknell had whipped out the first five Northamptonshire batsmen at a personal cost of just 12 runs, it looked odds on victory number three in the 40 over competition.

But two prolonged heavy showers caused the match to be abandoned with Northants in trouble at 53 for seven off 22.3 overs.

Hampshire openers Paul Terry and Tony Middleton shared an unbeaten stand of 159 to crush Middlesex by ten wickets at Southampton in one of only three matches which were able to be completed.

## Seattle sweeps Texas behind Griffey

### Slugger ties Mantle's start-of-season HR mark

SEATTLE (AP) — Ken Griffey Jr. tied Mickey Mantle's record for most home runs in the first two months of the season, hitting his 20th as Seattle completed a four-game sweep of the Texas Rangers with an 8-3 win on Sunday.

Griffey's 20 homers in 42 games matched Mantle's 20 homers in 41 games in the first two months of the 1956 season when Mantle hit 52. The Mariners have eight more games left this month.

His 13th homer in May gave him 152nd for his six-year career, tying the total that his father, Ken Griffey Jr., hit from 1973 through 1991 with four different teams.

Griffey, who tied a major-league record by homering in eight straight games last season, homered in his third game in a row.

Dennis Martinez pitched a seven-inning shutout as Cleveland snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Martinez (3-4) struck out three and walked three for his first shutout since the season and the 24th of his career. Martinez allowed only two runners to reach second base.

Albert Belle homered and drove in two runs and Carlos Baerga added two RBIs for the Indians, who won their first road game since a May 6 win at Baltimore.

John Guzman (4-5) allowed five runs and 11 hits in five innings, striking out three and walking one.

Red Sox 5, Twins 2

Roger Clemens limited Minnesota to five hits in eight innings as visiting Boston stopped the Twins' winning streak at seven.

Clemens (5-2), who has now allowed only eight earned runs in 61 innings over his last eight starts, walked four and struck out seven in handing the Twins their first home loss in 10 games.

Orioles 6, Yankees 5 (10)

Jack Voigt's two-run single capped a two-out 10th-inning rally as the Orioles snapped the Yankees' nine-game home winning streak.

With two outs in the 10th, Harold Baines singled off Xavier Hernandez (2-2) and Leo Gomez doubled. Voigt then singled in pinch-runner Lonnie Smith and Gomez.

Mark Williamson (2-0) allowed a homer to Jim Leyritz in the eighth but got the win. Lee Smith gave up Paul

O'Neill's 10th homer in the 10th but closed it out for his major-league leading 17th save.

O'Neill went 3-for-4 with a double and homer to raise his major league-leading average to .475.

Royals 4, Angels 0

David Cone pitched a one-hitter for his third straight shutout.

Cone (8-1) surrendered only a lead-off single to Chili Davis in the bottom of the fifth and faced only 29 batters to become the AL's first eight-game winner. He walked two and struck out four in recording his third career one-hitter.

Cone, who has won eight straight since dropping a 4-2 decision to Baltimore on April 6 — his first start of the season — ran his scoreless inning streak to 29. Kevin Appier owns the club record of 33.

Tigers 9, Brewers 6

Travis Fryman drove in four runs and rookie Chris Gomez went 3-for-4 as host Detroit sent Milwaukee to its 11th consecutive loss.

Fryman went 3-for-4 with a two-run homer, and Gomez singled, doubled and hit his fifth home run in May as the Tigers won their sixth straight home game.

The Brewers' 11-game skid is the second longest in Milwaukee history and one shy of the club record set in 1987.

Tim Lincecum (2-7) gave up four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings for his second straight win and first at home after starting the year 0-7.

Cal Eldred (3-6) allowed seven runs and 10 hits in dropping his third straight decision.

Greg Vaughn homered twice for the Brewers.

White Sox 5, Athletics 2

Frank Thomas drove in two runs to give visiting Chicago a sweep of the three-game series.

Jason Bere (5-1) allowed one run over six-plus innings to win his third consecutive start for the White Sox, who have won six of their last seven. The A's, who were swept for the ninth time this season, have lost six straight and 27 of their last 31.

In the third, Thomas' double scored Tim Lincecum and Joey Cora after they drew back-to-back walks from Carlos Reyes (0-2). Thomas scored on a two-out RBI single by Robin Ventura for a 3-0 Chicago lead. Thomas leads the majors with 50 runs scored.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Phillies 8, Mets 3

Lenny Dykstra, Pete Ineavaglia and Darren Daulton each led off innings with home runs as host Philadelphia swept a three-game series.

Starter Tommy Greene (2-0) allowed three runs on four hits and struck out six before leaving the game.

**SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:**

St. Louis 18, Florida 9

Philadelphia 8, New York 3

Montreal 3, Pittsburgh 2

Los Angeles 10, Cincinnati 3

Chicago 6, San Francisco 5 (11)

San Diego 7, Houston 6

Atlanta 8, Colorado 3

**SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS:**

Detroit 9, Milwaukee 6

Baltimore 6, New York 5 (10)

Cleveland 8, Toronto 0

Boston 5, Minnesota 2

Kansas City 4, California 0

Chicago 5, Oakland 2

Seattle 8, Texas 2

after 5 1/3 innings.

In finishing a 10-game homestand with an 8-2 mark, Philadelphia closed to within a half-game of fourth-place New York in the National League East.

Expos 3, Pirates 2

Pedro Martinez outpitched Denny Neagle and also outthrew him, tripling in three runs with the first hit of his major-league career to lead Montreal to a road win.

Both pitchers got their first big-league hits — Martinez was 0-for-22 and Neagle was 0-for-40 — and Martinez (3-3) overcame homers by Andy Van Slyke and Tom Foley to deal Pittsburgh its eighth loss in 10 games.

Cardinals 10, Marlins 9

Gregg Jefferies' two-run double capped a four-run ninth inning comeback that gave visiting St. Louis the victory in a brawl-filled game.

Martinez reliever Jeremy Hernandez (2-3) entered the ninth inning with a 9-6 lead. With two outs and nobody on, Jose Oquendo walked, went to second on a wild pitch and scored on an pinch-hit double by Mark Whiten.

Four players were ejected following a second-inning brawl, triggered when St. Louis starter Allen Watson hit a batter after giving up three homers in the inning.

Cubs 6, Giants 5 (11)

Derrick May hit a leadoff homer in the bottom of the 11th inning to give the Chicago Cubs their sixth straight win.

May, who made a potential game-saving catch in the bottom of the inning, hit a 2-0 pitch from Rod Beck (1-2) into the leftfield bleachers. Jim Bullinger (2-0) pitched two innings for the victory.

Padres 7, Astros 6

Phil Plantier hit a two-run homer in the top of the eighth inning as San Diego snapped a club-record 13-game losing streak.

Braves 8, Rockies 3

Greg Maddux struck out nine batters in seven innings as visiting Atlanta improved its all-time record against Colorado to 16-0.

The Braves swept the three-game series and handed the Rockies their fifth straight loss.

Dodgers 10, Reds 3

Brett Butler singled, tripled and homered, and Mike Piazza hit a three-run homer for visiting Los Angeles.

The NL West-leading Dodgers have won nine of their last 11 games.

The Dodgers scored their first four runs off Reds' starter Tim Lincecum (3-2).

## Local superstars gather in Eilat

### ORI LEWIS

THE third annual Krotel Championship of Champions superstars event gets underway in Eilat today, with 12 of Israel's best athletes competing.

The dozen will take part in eight events over two days for cash prizes totaling NIS 24,000.

The competitors are: soccer players Eyal Berkovic and Nir Klinger; basketballers Doron Jamche, Shimon Amsalem, Orly Grossman and Orly Kesten; judoka Oren Smadja; triathlete Limor Levin; marathon runner Lolly Leibowitz; volleyball players Alon Greenberg and Keren Oigman and weightlifter Orly Basan.

Some of the eight events are based on specific skills in soccer and basketball while others are less formal forms of sport such as traversing obstacle courses on land and sea.

The event begins with four events in and around the vicinity of the Sport Hotel in Eilat. The overall winner is determined on points awarded for the best result in each event.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

## Chelsea defender Elliott sues Welsh striker

LONDON (AP) — Chelsea defender Gary Elliott has filed a lawsuit against Welsh striker Ian Wright, claiming that Wright's actions during a recent match caused him physical and emotional distress.

Elliott, who was hospitalized for a week after a collision with Wright, claims that Wright's actions were deliberate and reckless.

The lawsuit, filed in the High Court, seeks damages of £100,000 for Elliott's injuries and emotional distress.

Wright's lawyer has denied the allegations, claiming that the collision was an accident.

The match in question was a Premier League game between Chelsea and Arsenal, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Elliott's injury occurred in the 15th minute of the game, when Wright collided with Elliott while attempting to score a goal.

Elliott's injury was a severe knee injury, which required surgery and a long recovery period.

The lawsuit is the latest in a series of legal actions involving football players and their injuries.

## Canucks take 3-1 series lead

VANCOUVER (AP) — Cliff Ronning broke open a scoreless game with a goal at 17:35 of the third period and the Vancouver Canucks went on to a 2-0 victory over Toronto on Sunday and a 3-1 lead over the Maple Leafs in the NHL Western Conference finals.

Ronning took a return pass from Sergio Momesso and beat goaltender Felix Potvin.

"It is a huge win for our club," Ronning said. "We still have to win one more game to get to where we all dream about playing," which is the NHL finals.

Vancouver hasn't been in the finals since 1982.

Pavel Bure added an empty-net goal in the last minute, his playoff high 13th.

The Canucks can win the best-of-7 series with a victory in Game 5 tonight at the Pacific Coliseum.

**NHL Playoff Glance**

**Finals (Best-of-7)**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

New Jersey-NY Rangers series tied 2-2

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Vancouver 2, Toronto 0

Vancouver leads series 3-1

Last night's scheduled game: New Jersey at NY Rangers

Today: Toronto at Vancouver

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	26	13	.683	—
Boston	27	19	.583	1 1/2
Toronto	21	17	.556	4 1/2
Orioles	21	20	.512	7 1/2
Red Sox	19	21	.475	8 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	24	17	.583	—
Cleveland	21	19	.524	2 1/2
Minnesota	22	20	.524	2 1/2
Kansas City	21	20	.512	3 1/2
White Sox	17	25	.405	7 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	19	23	.452	—
California	20	25	.444	1/2
Texas	18	23	.438	1 1/2
Colorado	11	32	.256	8 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	27	14	.659	—
Montreal	24	18	.571	3 1/2
Florida	22	21	.512	6
New York	20	22	.476	7 1/2
Philadelphia	20	23	.465	8
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	25	18	.581	—
St. Louis	23	18	.561	2 1/2
Houston	22	20	.524	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	19	22	.463	6 1/2
Chicago	17	24	.415	8 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	25	19	.568	—
San Francisco	21	22	.488	3 1/2
Colorado	17	24	.415	6 1/2
San Diego	11	32	.256	13 1/2

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# Dirani knows nothing about Arad - deputy

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

THE deputy of abducted Hizbullah terrorist leader Mustafa Dirani yesterday denied Dirani had sold IAF navigator Ron Arad to the Iranians and asserted Dirani knows nothing of value about Arad.

"Abu Ali Mustafa [Dirani] did not hand over the pilot. He has known nothing about this subject since the day his responsibility as security chief for Amal ended in 1988," said deputy Zakariya Hamzeh, who goes by the nom-de-guerre of Abu Yahya.

"We have no information on Arad since a long time... They will learn nothing new, because Abu Ali [Dirani] knows nothing about him since 1988," Hamzeh said.

However, IDF sources said yesterday Dirani has revealed under interrogation how he handed over Arad to the Iranian-backed Revolutionary Guards in 1988 for a hefty sum of money, believed to be around \$300,000.

Dirani, said the sources, confessed that in 1988, while still in the Amal militia, a Shi'ite organization opposed to Hizbullah, he

handed over Arad to the Revolutionary Guards alive and in good health. Arad ejected from his Phantom jet over Lebanon in October 1986 and has been missing since.

Dirani, 43, formed his own group after splitting from Amal six years ago. He is known in Shi'ite guerrilla circles as Abu Ali Mustafa.

"We will not let Israel laugh for long," said Hamzeh. He and other Shi'ite leaders spoke at a news conference outside Dirani's three-story house in the village of Ksarnaba, pledging revenge.

"It's an open war between us and the Israelis," said Hussein Musawi, leader of Islamic Amal, one of several pro-Iranian Shi'ite groups based in eastern Lebanon.

Sheikh Adib Haidar, a Shiite cleric and a senior official of the Believers Resistance, said: "We say to the Zionists, 'We're going to ambush you as you've ambushed us.'"

Musawi, whose group also is an Amal splinter faction closely allied with Dirani,

said he, too, has no information on Arad or who was holding him.

"If I had him, I would have killed him," said Musawi, who acknowledged Dirani's capture was a "big blow" to guerrillas fighting to evict Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

In Beirut, Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said Dirani's abduction was a violation of international law and warned that it could hurt the Middle East peace process.

The state-run National News Agency said Lebanon is considering lodging an official complaint with the United Nations Security Council.

Haidar and Hamzeh lashed out at the Lebanese government for delaying official comment on the operation and accused it of "scandalous negligence."

"We can't find an explanation for the scandalous negligence by the Lebanese state which stood by as a false witness for four hours watching the Zionists breaching

Lebanon's sovereignty," Haidar said.

Hamzeh called for an arrangement with the Lebanese Army, which has recently banned the appearance of armed elements in the Bekaa Valley, to allow commandos to protect themselves.

Information Minister Michel Samaha, in the first official reaction to the kidnapping, denounced the operation as "international piracy condemned by all laws and legislations and international agreements."

"This is a new example of Israeli atrocities and its desire to influence and exploit neighboring nations," Samaha told reporters yesterday.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday it had demanded the Israeli government allow its representatives in Jerusalem to visit Dirani.

"We have demanded to be allowed to visit him because his seizure is a clear breach of article 34 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the taking of hostages," an ICRC spokesman said.

## Reaction to Dirani abduction is muted

ANALYSIS

DAVID MAKOVSKY

INTERNATIONAL reaction to the abduction of Mustafa Dirani has been quiet.

Iran has publicly condemned the move, calling it "piracy," but no other country, including Syria, has reacted.

This muted response stands in contrast to the firestorm of protest that followed the abduction of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid in 1989.

Observers trace the difference to a variety of factors. First, Obeid was taken while Western hostages were being held in Lebanon, and there was fear the Israeli operation would complicate their plight. It was also unclear if Obeid was a

religious figure, while it is undisputable that Dirani has been involved in violent operations against Israel.

In addition, some Arab countries, such as Egypt, have encountered growing problems with their own Islamic militant groups, and have been less vocal in condemning Israeli actions against similar organizations.

Western leaders also appreciate Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's major strides toward peace and fear criticism could weaken his domestic political base. This sort of international concern was not granted to Yitzhak Shamir, who was premier at the time of the Obeid capture.



Nissim Zivili, center, and his fellow Labor negotiators look forlorn during their talks with the Ram faction yesterday. (Israel Sun)

## Rabin promises Ramon he will order swift transfer of power in Histadrut

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin last night promised Haim Ramon that he will instruct the leaders of the Labor Party's Histadrut faction to negotiate a speedy transfer of power and to cancel all agreements made with the Likud in the local labor councils.

Rabin called for the meeting in his Knesset office after Ramon earlier in the day threatened to open negotiations with the Likud by the end of the week if Labor did not change its basic negotiating position.

Ramon issued the threat after the talks between his Ram list and Labor had reached a stalemate.

Rabin also asked Ramon for some time to instruct the Labor negotiating team to act in accordance with his instructions and the decisions of the Labor Party

ministers.

The talks between Ram and Labor at Mapam headquarters ended with no agreement after four-and-a-half hours, as neither side would accept the other's demands concerning two main bones of contention: the date of the Histadrut convention and the agreements made by some 12 local labor councils reached with the Likud.

Ram's leaders are demanding to hold the convention by mid-June to speed up the transfer of power.

Labor proposed a compromise: The head of its negotiating team, outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld, suggested continuing the negotiations daily to reach a decision concerning

the date of the convention. Labor argued that, according to the Histadrut constitution, the convention can only be called after a coalition is formed.

As for the agreements with the Likud, Haberfeld suggested "freezing" them for the time being, rather than canceling them. Labor sources explained that just as Ramon violated his party's decisions and ran against it in the Histadrut elections, so have the Labor council secretaries, who ran in primaries and consider themselves free to form coalitions with whatever list they choose.

However, Ram's team rejected the compromise proposals, and no date has been set for a further negotiating session.

Meanwhile, Ram's coalition talks with the Joint Jewish-Arab List is making progress. The two teams decided yesterday to take "Eretz Yisrael" out of the Histadrut's name (*Hahistadrut Haclalit shel Haavdim B'Eretz Yisrael*) and to make Arabic a formal language in the Histadrut.

It was also decided to form a committee which will examine all the aspects of discrimination against Arabs and the budgets allocated to this sector. Another committee will be charged with implementing all the findings in this field.

The Joint List also presented several demands concerning trade unions and wage conditions, including raising the minimum wage to 50 percent of the average wage and raising the cost of living index raise to 100 percent.

## COMPTROLLER

(Continued from Page 1) planned to turn a number of her findings over to Ben-Yair, without specifying which ones.

The relative mildness of the report was evidenced, he charged, by the fact that she had turned only two matters over to him for possible criminal investigation: the activities of the Emmanuel local council and the Religious Affairs Ministry's support for Tora institutions.

"Perhaps it would be more comfortable for the attorney-general if I announced the names of those who might be suspected of crimes," Ben-Porat said. "But mere suspicion doesn't justify the publication of the name of the person involved."

Ben-Yair's office declined to say whether he had changed his mind regarding the gravity of the report in light of Ben-Porat's request to investigate two additional matters, saying he would save his response for the state control committee.

The committee, which was sharply critical of Ben-Yair's remarks, decided to summon him to explain his behavior.

"We are astonished both at the mere fact of his criticism, and at the way he expressed it," said committee chairman David Magen (Likud), noting that it would have been much more proper for Ben-Yair to have expressed his concerns to Ben-Porat privately, rather than making a statement to the press.

The committee unanimously expressed its support for Ben-Porat, stressing that her responsibility was to the Knesset, not the attorney-general.

Magen also said he would ask Ben-Yair to address the question of what happens if the comptroller and the attorney-general disagree on the legality of an action. He noted that in two sections of the current report, he state had responded to the comptroller's criticism by saying the attorney-general saw nothing wrong with current procedure.

## Rabin, Ben-Eliezer attack Ben-Porat for criticism of gov't

DAN IZENBERG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer yesterday attacked State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat for her criticism of the government in last week's annual report despite a cabinet decision not to criticize her.

"The government is entitled to determine policy," Rabin told the Labor Knesset faction. "It has set its priorities and will uphold them."

Rabin read out a letter presented to the cabinet on Sunday by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, who accused Ben-Porat of being deliberately vague and of over-dramatizing her allegations of criminal acts in government ministries.

"The state comptroller created the impression that there were many criminal incidents," said Rabin. "In the end, it turned out that there were two."

Rabin also recalled that Ben-Porat had caused a scandal when she accused the Labor Party of "buying power" in a report on the 1990 Histadrut election published soon after the Labor party won the 1992 Knesset election.

Ben-Porat caused many people to think she was referring to Labor's Knesset victory, charged Rabin.

The prime minister endorsed the right of cabinet ministers to appoint an entire echelon of civil service workers. "Policy is carried out by people," said Rabin.

"None of this 'Yes, Mr. Prime Minister' nonsense. I don't think the British concept of the civil ser-

vant is the right one," said the prime minister.

Rabin said he saw nothing wrong with 2,000-3,000 civil servants being replaced when a new government came to power.

Regarding funds for Beit Hapalmah, Rabin said, "Who is she to speak about the Paltam?"

Regarding political appointments, Rabin said, "A minister is permitted to appoint aides; he cannot work with people he doesn't trust."

Ben-Eliezer said his ministry was in shambles when he took it over. "The Likud caused losses of NIS 10 billion," he charged.

Directly addressing some of the charges in the report, Ben-Eliezer said the former government had discriminated against Labor-led local councils and that the building situation in many kibbutzim had been "scandalous."

He defended his allocation to Beit Hapalmah, adding that the Likud had also given money to Likud-affiliated centers such as Beit Daniel and Beit Jabotinsky. He also defended his appointment of Zvi Alderotti to a ministry post without a tender.

"I took a man who had proved himself in Migdal Ha'emek and the state comptroller calls it a political appointment," said Ben-Eliezer.

Ben-Eliezer also rejected criticism of his decision to allocate rental subsidies to residents of the territories who had asked for help in relocating inside the Green Line after the signing of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles.

## Beilin slammed for proposing merger with Meretz

SARAH HONG

personal interests."

One Rabin aide termed Beilin's "timing extremely unfortunate. He chose to go public with this at a time when the government faces so much opposition from the right. His words about Meretz and Labor being indistinguishable in objectives and policy will play directly into their hands."

He scored Beilin for "seeking to pull Labor leftward at a time when it is essential that, in the war for public opinion, it appear at the center of the political arena."

Less restrained were the members of Labor's hawkish Hofti Circle, which met in special session yesterday afternoon to reply to

Beilin's proposal. The general view was that, as MK Eli Goldschmidt put it, "if Beilin yearns for a partnership with Meretz, then he should return his mandate to Labor and join the party which suits him more."

MK Orr argued that "going the way Beilin advocates would be the quickest and surest way to bring the Likud back to power - and for a very, very long time. Labor can only win an election if it remains a supermarket of ideas and attracts voters from all corners of the political arena. The party has already lurching too dangerously to the left, but if Beilin unites Labor and Meretz, then many of our voters will simply desert to the Likud."

## Treasury defends economic agreement with PLO

DAN IZENBERG

THE Israel-PLO economic agreement will cost Israeli taxpayers NIS 120 million-NIS 160m. in the first stage of implementation, Treasury budget director David Brodet told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

The money would go for various items, including compensation to Israeli farmers affected by the agreement and transfer payments to the autonomy.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said the agreement would open Middle Eastern markets to Israel. The terms are good for the Palestinians, but also good for Israel because

they provide it with economic leverage to prevent the Palestinians from violating the agreement, he said.

Shohat denied allegations that the agreement is actually political, and grants the Palestinians gains in their efforts to establish an independent state. The Palestinians would have chosen to establish a completely separate economy had they sought political gains, said Shohat. Another indication that the agreement is not political is that Arab countries are very angry about it, he added.

Moshe Nissim (Likud) said he could not understand why government leaders had exulted over the agreement. "You acted too hastily because you wanted to finish the negotiations quickly," a source who attended the meeting quoted him as saying.

Nissim charged that in addition to the harm to farmers, 9,000 industrial workers would lose their jobs and industry would suffer a loss of NIS 1.9 billion in the coming three years.

Ra'an Cohen (Labor) warned that various commodities might be smuggled into the country via the autonomy.

## Body switch investigation focuses on identification procedures

ALON PINKAS

THE IDF probe of the tragic switch of the bodies of terror victims Cpl. Erez Ben-Baruch and Staff Sgt. Moshe Bukra is focusing on the identification procedures conducted by the IDF Rabbinate.

The committee, headed by a reserve brigadier-general, is specifically trying to determine who identified the bodies at the death site, near the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, and signed the identification papers attached to the bodies.

The committee found out that the divisional rabbi, Maj. Moshe Gabai, and two soldiers identified the bodies, then traveled with them to Sheba Hospital. It is unclear if the three conducted a nec-

essary second identification at the ID facility in the hospital.

After a second identification is made, army procedure requires that the IDF chief rabbi sign and seal the files of the fallen soldiers, after further corroboration with the head of Burial Department at the Chief Military Rabbinate.

Evelyn Gordon adds: The Knesset law committee yesterday asked the army to give it the findings of the investigation of how the bodies were switched.

Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said the army's report would help the committee to decide whether changes in legislation regarding military cemeteries would help prevent a recurrence.

## High school pupil falls to his death from cliff overlooking Ramon Crater

AMIR ROZENBLIT

AN 11th grade pupil at Mizpe Ramon's High School for the Arts fell some 150 meters to his death yesterday from a cliff hanging over the Ramon Crater.

Police say the death of Michael Bleicher, 18, was an accident. He fell from a spot known as "the balcony," a place frequented by pupils at the school, some of whom spotted his body from the vantage point yesterday afternoon as searchers combed the crater floor. About 18 months ago another youth was killed in a fall from the same spot.

Bleicher's absence had been noted at 11 p.m. Sunday, when his dormitory counselor made a final bed check, and a search was begun

immediately.

Bleicher immigrated from Russia alone in 1992 and was followed two months ago by his parents and sister. He was considered a good student and was in the midst of taking matriculation exams.

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